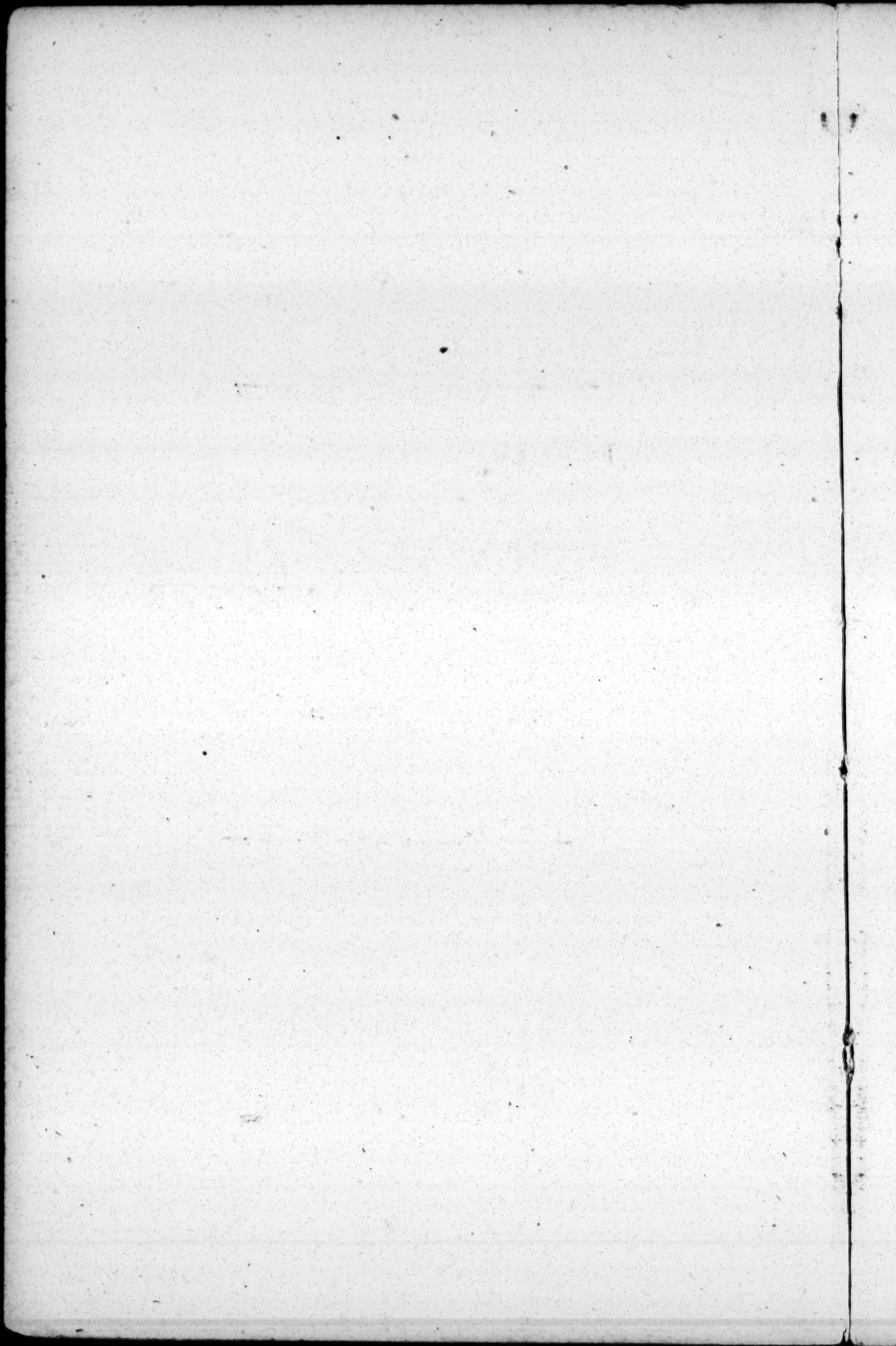


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T H E
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER
EXEMPLIFIED.

METHODIST ARCHIVES
LAMPLOUGH COLLECTION
AND
RESEARCH CENTRE



THE
CHRISTIAN CHARACTER
E X E M P L I F I E D,

FROM THE PAPERS OF
Mrs. MARGARET MAGDALEN A—S,

LATE WIFE OF
Mr. FREDERICK CHARLES A—S,

OF
GOODMAN'S FIELDS.

SELECTED AND REVISED

By JOHN NEWTON,
Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth.

THE SECOND EDITION.

TRANQUILLUS DEUS, TRANQUILLAT OMNIA.

The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom. A good understanding have all they that do his commandments. Pf. cxi. 10.

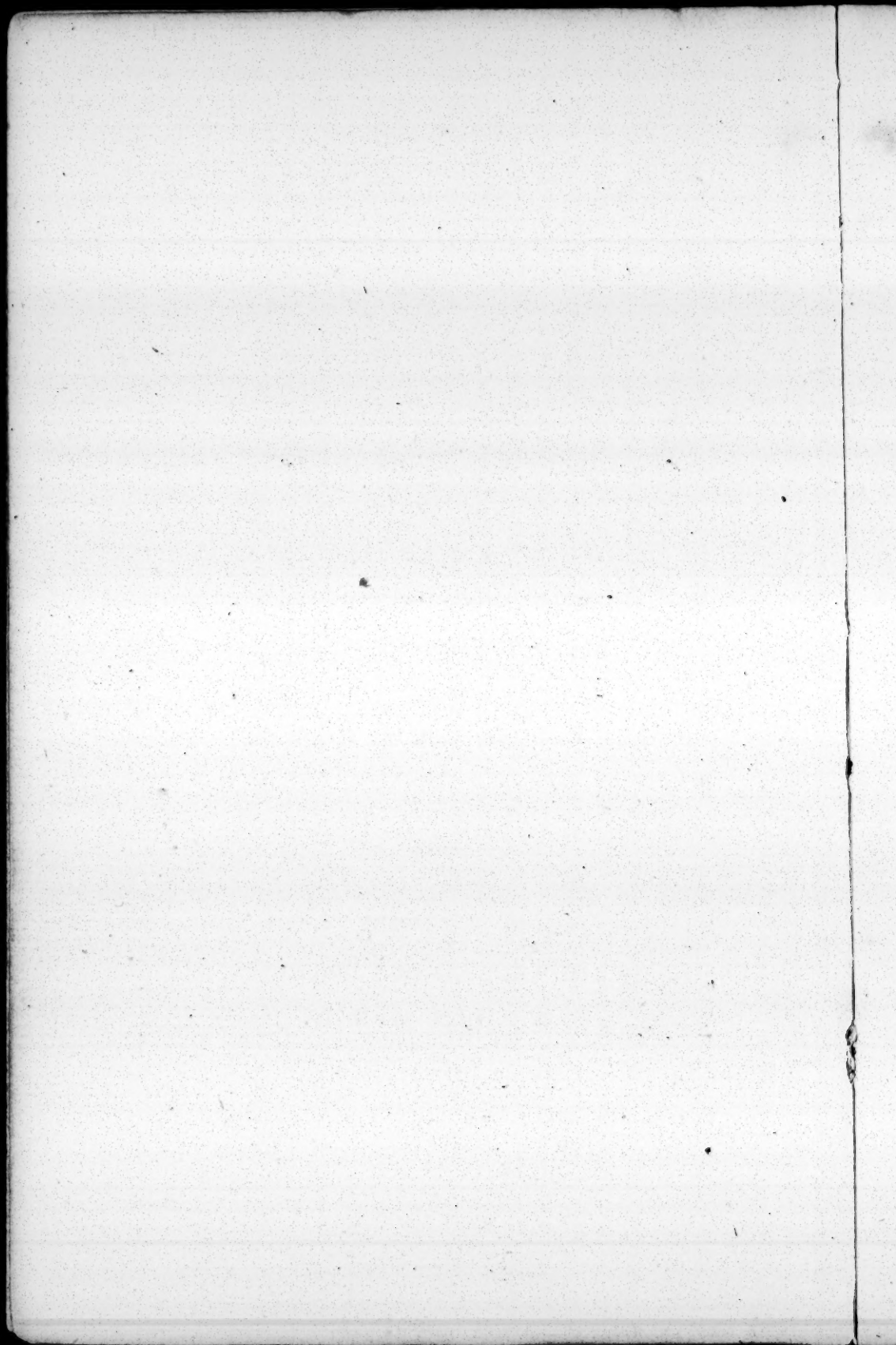
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1793



P R E F A C E.

ABOUT Midsummer last, some papers were put into my hands, with a message from the person who sent them, to inform me, that they were written by his late wife, who died in the preceding year. He wished me to read them; and that if I should meet with any passages, which I thought worthy of being printed, I would take the trouble of selecting, and revising them, for publication.

This request, coming from an utter stranger, of whose name I had never till then heard, did not meet with my ready compliance. The quantity of materials, (I think not less than ten quires closely written) seemed to point out a task incompatible

with my many engagements. I considered likewise that abundance of books of a similar kind are already abroad; and that the private histories of Christians in private life, usually run so much in the same strain, that I saw no necessity for adding to the number. What is written by those, whose memory is dear to their families and friends, may, for that reason, be thought, by them, to be striking and important; though, in reality, not so important, as fully to justify the appearance of such anecdotes, beyond the circle of their own connections.

It was therefore from a point of civility, rather than with an intention of proceeding farther that I consented the papers should be left with me, and promised to look them over at my leisure.

But I soon perceived that the Providence of God had sent me a treasure; and that
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the service enjoined me, in this unexpected way, was a duty which I ought not to decline. It has proved likewise a very seasonable service for my own benefit; for which I have reason to be thankful. I began and finished it under a heavy family affliction, which often unfitted my mind from attending closely to any thing, but what was of immediate and necessary importance. At such seasons, the intervals I could allot to this employment afforded me a pleasure, and a profit, peculiarly adapted to my situation. The pattern before me, which I attempted to copy with my pen, made (I hope) some impression upon my heart, and greatly contributed to form my spirit, to a measure of submission to the will of God, and of dependance upon his wisdom and goodness, under my affliction.

The writer's maiden name was Jasper. She was the niece of the late Mrs. Beck-

man*, (whose memory and character are still dear to her surviving friends.) Though brought up with, what we call, better expectations, she had a share of the vicissitudes so common in human life, and lived in the capacity of a servant, from October 1776, until a few weeks before her marriage, which took place in January 1784. But this humble situation was so sweetened to her by the light of God's countenance, and so sanctified by the blessing of his Holy Spirit, that, in several parts of her Diary, she expresses great thankfulness to God, for those dispensations of his Providence, however painful at the time, which rendered it necessary. She was thereby secluded from many temptations and snares, which she apprehended might, otherwise, have retarded her progress in the Christian Life; and her state of dependance was not burdensome, because, in fact, she depended upon the Lord whom she served.

* Widow of the late Dederick Beckman, Esq.

I have abridged the remarkable account she has left of her conversion. With respect to her Diary, if I had transcribed every paragraph which I thought well deserving of notice, instead of a small book, I must have published a folio. I have contented myself with selecting such passages as I judged might suffice to mark her character and spirit, and the principal incidents of her life. I have subjoined a few letters, out of many, which she wrote after she became a wife, a mistress of a family, and a mother. Of these, two were written to her husband, and two to her children, when she had a near prospect of death, and with a design that they should be delivered after her decease.

Her views of religion, and the general tenor of her conduct, were so different from the prevailing taste of our times, that I cannot expect this publication will be universally acceptable. But I believe it will

be acceptable to every reader, whose hope is founded upon the principles of the gospel of Christ, and whose practice is regulated by his precepts. Nor am I without hope that some persons who have hitherto been too indifferent to their most important concerns, may not only be induced to read it, but by the blessing of God, may derive instruction and benefit from the perusal. It may perhaps tend to obviate or soften the prejudices of some persons, who have thought but little upon religious subjects, if I assure them, that her sentiments were not so generally exploded formerly, as they are at present. They accord, in the main, not only with the articles and authorized standards of our Established Church, but with the writings of Usher, Hall, Reynolds, Hale, and many other of its brightest ornaments. Though now, (*prob dolo!*) they are often branded with the epithets of Novel and Enthusiastic.

How

How far these censures are founded in truth.
Dies iste indicabit.

But it may be truly said, she received them not from man, but from a higher, an infallible Teacher. God, who in the beginning commanded the light to shine out of darkness, enlightened her mind, and inclined her heart, to understand, prize, and study his Holy Scriptures. The Bible was her test of truth, and her rule of practice. And her ideas of scriptural truth were not mere notions floating in her head, but vital and powerful principles implanted in her heart; producing in her those fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ to the glory and praise of God ^a.

That they who, by the knowledge of the glorious Gospel of the blessed God, are separated from the world around them, and

^a Phil. i. 11.

are determined to obey God, rather than man, should be treated by many with contempt or ridicule, branded with an invidious name, and considered as visionaries or hypocrites, is, to me, a subject rather for grief, than wonder. For it is written, All that will live godly, in Christ Jesus, shall suffer persecution^a. And where (as in our happy land) the spirit of the laws, and of the government, restrain the enmity of the heart, from inflicting fines, stripes, imprisonment and death, upon the objects of its dislike; it has still ample scope to vent itself by cruel mockings, calumnies, and misrepresentations.

Though the Will of God is openly revealed in the Holy Scriptures, his *Secret*, the true meaning of his revelation, is restrained to those that fear him^b. Till we are born again, and receive a new principle

^a 2 Tim. iii. 12.

^b Psalm xxv. 14.

of life from above, we are not only unfit for the kingdom of his glory in Heaven, but are incapable of perceiving the nature and excellencies of his kingdom of grace upon earth ^a.

But I sincerely pity those who know not what they do, nor whose cause they oppose, when I consider how many real offences they meet with, to confirm them in their unhappy prepossessions. If all those, who bear the reproach of the gospel, were truly and indeed what they profess to be, apologies would be unnecessary. We might then, with the apostles, rejoice, that we were counted worthy to suffer shame, for the sake of Him, who endured the cross, and despised the shame for us ^b.

It must, however, be acknowledged, that there are many mere pretenders, who

^a John iii. 3.

^b Acts v. 40. Heb. xii. 2.

give too much occasion for the ways of truth to be evil spoken of. ^a The vain-confidence, the wild enthusiasm, the disorderly, contentious, and bitter spirit of some professors; the gross wickedness and enormities, which, sooner or later, detect the true character of others, who for a time have concealed themselves under the mask of a zeal for religion, and a claim to superior sanctity; are too notorious to be denied. Alas! for those, who thus lay stumbling blocks before the blind. ^b It is true, these things are not peculiar to our times. It was so from the beginning. Under the eye of the apostles themselves, there were those, who, while they affected to be called Christians, were enemies to the cross of Christ. There were many false teachers, and false prophets, then, and many who followed their pernicious ways: for the heart of man, and the devices of Satan, have been the same

^a 2 Pet. ii. 2.^b Lev. xix. 14.

in every age. But persons who are too much engaged in business or pleasure, to search the Scriptures with diligence and prayer for themselves, are easily induced to form their judgments by what they see and hear. They endeavour to stifle the convictions, which they cannot always avoid, by hastily taking it for granted, that the evils they observe in noisy, empty professors of religion, are the proper effects of those principles, which, while they avow, they abuse and disgrace.

But as a counterfeit always implies a reality; as false money or forged notes could not be imposed upon the unwary, if there were no good coin, or bills of real value, to be imitated; so in the present declining state of religion, God has not left himself without witnesses. There are still to be found persons, whose characters and conduct (though not wholly exempt from
human

human infirmities,) will stand the test of strict and impartial examination; persons who really are, what they profess to be, *Christians*. In the sight of God, and in their own eyes, they are sinners, but they have received grace to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. And they are taught, by the grace which has saved them, to renounce all ungodliness and worldly lusts, and to live soberly, righteously and godly in the present world ^a. By the doctrine of the cross, under the influence and teaching of the Holy Spirit, they have acquired that knowledge of themselves, which has convinced them of the need and the worth of a Saviour. From a sense of their unspeakable obligations to him, who loved them, and shed his precious blood as an atonement for their sins, they serve him with a single eye, and a devoted heart. They rely on his care, are resigned to his will, and obey his precepts without reserve. And

^a Titus ii, 12.

thus

thus, in the midst of all the trials and changes of life, they experience a peace that passeth all understanding, and a hope full of glory.

In the number of these, I do not hesitate to rank the writer of the papers, from which I have made the following extracts. I intreat a candid perusal. What she wrote was for her own use, and it does not appear, that, till a little before her death, she either desired or expected, that any but her surviving relations, and intimate friends, would read a single page of it. She was certainly a person of good sense, but her situation in life precluded her from the advantage of much acquired knowledge; and her reading seems to have been chiefly confined to religious books. But it is hoped that the simplicity and ingenuousness of her manner will please competent judges. In revising what I have selected, I have sometimes

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changed

changed a word, sometimes, but not often, the form of an expression; but, to the best of my knowledge, I have not altered one of her sentiments, nor added one of my own.

The data, or first principles, upon which she proceeds, are such as these: That God made us, and not we ourselves.—That He has given us a capacity and thirst for happiness, which, both experience and observation demonstrate, the world cannot satisfy.—That He has graciously invited us to seek his face, and to place our happiness in his favour, in communion with Him, and in conformity to Him.—That by the gift of the Son of his love, Christ Jesus the Lord, to be the Head, Surety and Mediator, for all who believe in his name, He has provided every thing needful to dispel our fears, and to encourage our hopes.—That death, with respect to the event, is certain,
with

with respect to the time, no less uncertain. —That Christ Jesus the Lord, now proposed to us as a Saviour, will hereafter be our judge.—That according to his righteous award, we shall all be fixed in an unchangeable state of happiness or misery for ever.—And that without faith and holiness, no man shall see the Lord with comfort. These positions must be true, admitting the Bible to be a divine revelation. How lamentable then is it, that multitudes labour to exclude them from their thoughts, and presume to treat those who pay attention to them, as weak enthusiasts!

I may challenge any person to produce from the writings of philosophers, ancient or modern, of those in most repute for learning or wisdom (of whose conduct, faith in the Saviour was not the avowed principle) such marks of true elevation of thought, and grandeur of aim, as are to be

found in the following pages, though written by a woman, who was, for many years, in the humble station of a domestic servant. Reader, despise not her testimony, because she moved in a low sphere of life. She was great in the sight of the Lord!

Shall a rational creature be deemed weak, for aiming at nothing less than the Glory of God, in all the actions of common life; for seeking happiness in his favour, in communion with Him, in a growing conformity to his revealed Will, and inimitable perfections? Is it the mark of a little mind, to be satisfied and contented with our allotted situation, and to exercise submission to the Providence of God, in all the changes and trials of life, however contrary to our natural feelings? Does the habitual exercise of benevolence, patience and forgiveness, deserve the brand of enthusiasm? Are a useful and ornamental life,

2 and

and a comfortable, triumphant frame of spirit in a dying hour, the proper subjects of contempt? I appeal to *Conscience*. Or can any principles but those of the gospel (so much despised amongst us) form the mind to such aims, or such attainments? I appeal to *Fact*.

I think it scarcely possible, that any person can be so totally depraved, as to believe from his heart, that the pride, selfishness, dissipation, discontent, anxiety, insignificance and folly, which are the prominent features in the characters of the Many who live without God in the world, are really preferable to the tempers and habits of the Few, who uniformly endeavour to worship and serve Him, in spirit, and in truth. There are no greater hypocrites, than some of those who affect to charge religious people with hypocrisy. They often wear a constrained smile in their faces,

while a something, sharper than a dagger, pierces their hearts. Amidst all their boasts of liberty and pleasure, they know, and feel, that they would gladly change conditions with a dog. And there are seasons, when in defiance of their jests and subterfuges, they believe and tremble.

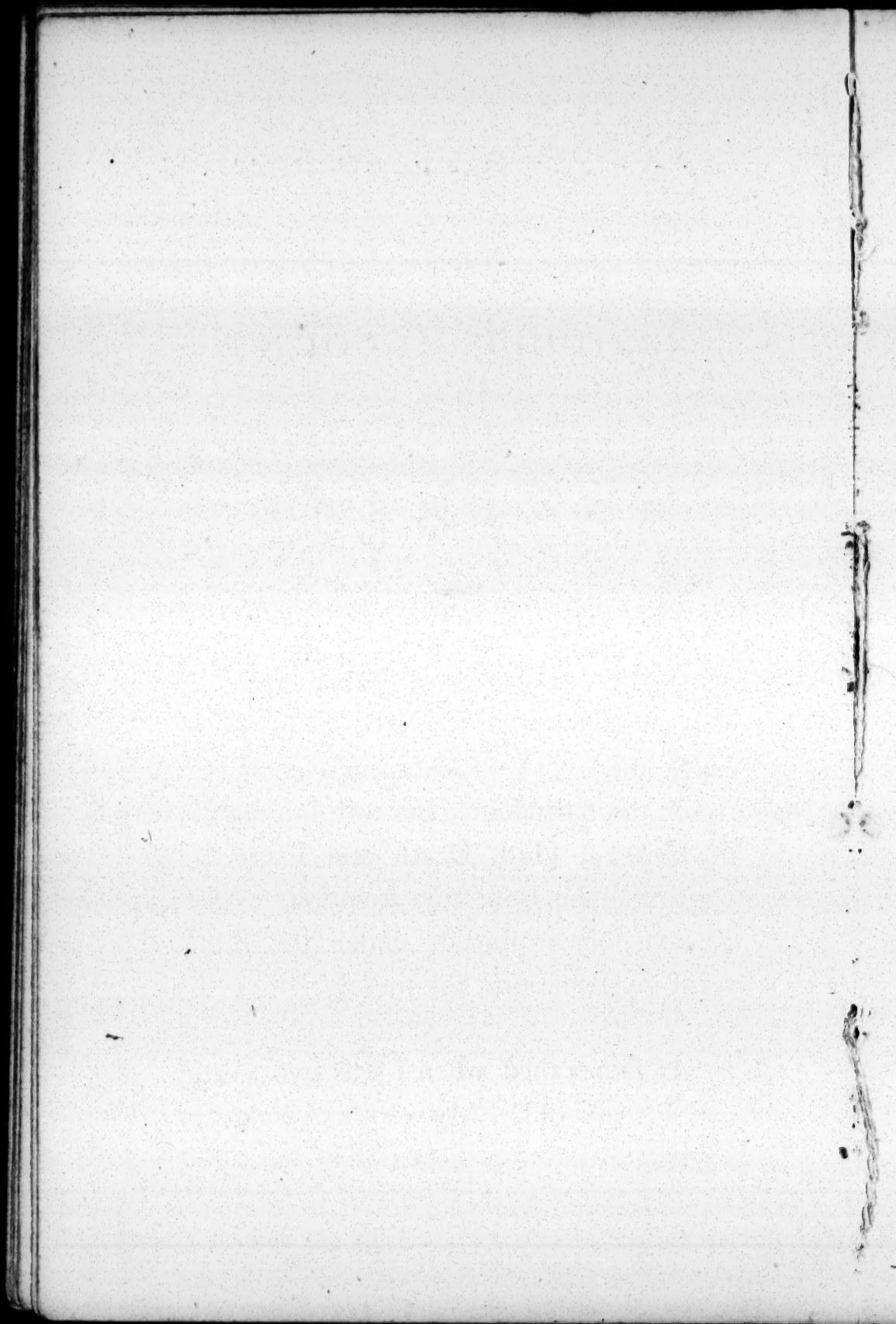
Having, myself, too long sojourned in the comfortless regions of scepticism and infidelity; I well know the gall and bitterness, the misery and the danger of such a state of mind. And now, through mercy, I know the service of God to be perfect freedom, the happiness and dignity of man. My sole design in this publication, is to promote the good of my fellow-creatures. To encourage those who are already walking in the paths of wisdom; and, if possible, to convince others, who are spending money for that which is not bread, and their labour for that which satisfieth

tisfieth not—That there are nobler pleasures, and brighter prospects attainable (if they seek them with all their hearts) than this poor transitory world can afford.

Coleman-street Buildings,
Jan. 21, 1791.

JOHN NEWTON.

ABRIDGED



No. I.

ABRIDGED ACCOUNT
OF HER
CONVERSION.

I WAS born 23d of July 1752. I can remember to have had, from early infancy, serious impressions of religion upon my soul. The awful thoughts of Heaven, Hell, Death and Eternity, engrossed much of my attention. And I have often prayed, under the most alarming sensations, for mercy.

My father died when I was two years and a half old. My mother being a German, I was educated in that language,
as

as well as in my native tongue, and in the fifteenth year of my age, I was confirmed in the German chapel, by the Rev. Dr. Wachfell. I must with gratitude acknowledge, that he spared no pains to instruct me in the great principles of religion. But the endeavour of man cannot reach the heart, unless influenced by the spirit and power of God. Though I was confirmed and admitted a member of the congregation, I knew no more what a change of heart meant, or an experimental knowledge of Jesus Christ, than one who had never heard of him.

After an illness, from which the Lord was pleased to raise me up, I went into the country, to my dear aunts, for the benefit of the air. Soon after, she had an invitation from Lady H—— to the opening of the chapel at Tunbridge Wells; and I, as being with her, was invited likewise. This pleased me, and I

was some way happy in the thought of going; for though I made no profession of religion, I felt at times a love for the ministers and people of God.

But the day before we set out, I was so displeased and dissatisfied, that I wished myself at the farthest part of the globe, rather than go. My aunt was confined with an acute pain in her head; and though I can say I always loved her with a sincere affection, but at that time, I then fervently wished (the remembrance now pierces my heart,) that she might die suddenly, or some disaster might befall her, to prevent our going.

July 21, 1768. However, the next morning we went; but I think I was as much possessed with the devil, as any of those who are recorded in the New Testament, for I was fully determined that nothing I might hear or see should make any impression upon my mind.

While

While my aunt and Mrs. H—— were holding sweet communion in talking of the things of God, I was reflecting upon some idle books which I had read, or repeating foolish songs or verses which I had learned; and had, as I thought, sufficiently hardened my mind with prejudices against any thing that was serious. But oh! the amazing love of God, when he saw me in my blood, he said unto me, Live.

On the Sunday (July 23), the Rev. Mr. W—— preached from Gen. xxviii. 17. “ How dreadful is this place, this is none other than the house of God, this is the gate of heaven !” I was much delighted, though I felt no particular impression of the truth, at that time. How earnestly did he pray, that some poor sinners might acknowledge that chapel as the place of their spiritual nativity. I trust, through mercy, I can say it was the place of mine.

In

In the evening I heard Mr. De ——— from Rev. i. 18. "I am he that liveth, and was dead, &c." I was again highly pleased, and I seemed resolved to set about a reformation; though I knew not where, or how to begin.

On the Monday we had a sacrament at the chapel, such a one as I never was present at before: I had such a view of Jesus Christ crucified, that I seemed as caught up into the third heaven, to hear things unutterable. Though I knew no more of the depravity of my nature, than the board on which I kneeled, I seemed swallowed up by a sense of the love of God; and was firmly persuaded that Jesus loved me, and would save me. My state at that time has often appeared to me very mysterious; and I have been led to question, whether I was not under a delusion. But the Lord has many ways of bringing sinners to himself. Some are driven by terror, others
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are drawn by love. The latter was my case, my heart was full of love to God, and yet, alas! I knew him not. This warmth of love continued for some days.

The next morning we set off for London. I returned in a state of mind very different, from what it was when I went. Instead of the vain and foolish things I had repeated before, I now read hymns, and endeavoured to learn some by heart; and fully resolved, thinking myself sufficiently strong, that I would be very serious and religious for the future. I thought I saw a beauty in religion, and wished to be more acquainted with it.

On our way home we dined at a place called Sprats-bottom. The house had pleasant fields behind it. I took my book in my hand, and sought a retired place,

place, to read and meditate on the loving-kindness of God towards me. And for the first time I ever sincerely prayed, I kneeled down, no eye seeing me, and earnestly entreated that the Lord would give me grace and strength, to persevere in my resolution of devoting myself to Him, and that I might live and die in his fear. I looked back upon my past life, and was grieved to think that I had spent near sixteen years, in the service of Satan, and had been led captive by him at his will. When I came home, I endeavoured to set about the desirable reformation. I prayed morning and evening, read the Bible, and outwardly appeared very decent. I was much delighted in going with my aunt to hear the preaching. But still I knew nothing what a change of heart, or the new birth, meant. I thought I had arrived at my highest attainment, and that all was well ; I had already established a righteousness of my own, which I supposed

posed was sufficient to justify me before God.

But the Lord soon gave me to see my mistake, in hearing a sermon by Mr. W——, from the words “Thy God thy Glory,” Isa. lx. 19. When he pointed out the wretched state of sinners by nature, that they have no power to help themselves, or to make satisfaction for one sin, and that without the atonement of Christ they cannot obtain pardon; my mind was much agitated. I began to see that I had sinned against a holy God, and was unable to offer restitution. This filled my heart with sorrow and my eyes with tears. Then was my former comfort turned into the deepest gloom. I saw it was impossible to help myself; yet, I thought I had one prop to support me, which was prayer. I wrestled with the Lord for mercy, and when I had learned to stammer a few broken accents,

accents, I was never happy but when at a throne of grace. And though I could say little more than, God be merciful to me a sinner, I had sometimes a gleam of hope, that if I sought him, I should find him. This hope animated and revived my drooping spirit.

In August, the Rev. Mr. D—— preached at the chapel. What I then felt, no pen can describe, nor heart conceive, but in the like situation. I saw myself lost, condemned by the law of God, and seemed as sure of damnation, as if already in Hell. I could not pray, and indeed I thought prayer would be in vain, for if God was just, I must perish.

Mr. D—— afterwards prayed with me at home, but I found no comfort, my gloom and heaviness increased, and my heart was filled with despair.

Some time after, he gave us an account of the many trials and difficulties the Lord had carried him through. I was so affected by what he said, and by my own situation, that I was obliged to leave the room. I retired, and endeavoured to look into the state of my heart, but could see nothing but deformity and abomination, and I thought, surely there cannot be mercy for such a vile, guilty creature, as I am. Great advantage the enemy took of me, urging, that it was in vain for me to seek for mercy, that the curse of God was upon me, and I should soon confess his justice in my destruction. But I cannot describe what I felt. I begged a few words with Mr. D—— in private, thinking, that opening my mind to him, might in some measure alleviate my distress. But when he entered the room, I could not speak for tears. He addressed me with much tenderness, said he saw
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the cause of my trouble, and prayed the Lord to remove it, by enabling me to believe that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. One thing he said gave me some encouragement. He thought me sincere, and if the Lord had begun a good work in me, he hoped and believed he would carry it on. He advised me to read the Scriptures, and to pray that the Lord would enlighten my mind, and shew me the things pertaining to my peace.

When he left me, I reflected on those words, the blood of Jesus cleanseth from all sin, and that word *all*, gave me some glimmering of hope. That day, after dinner, as I was walking in the fields, ruminating on my unhappy state, I opened my little bible, and directly cast my eyes on those comfortable words, Ps. xxxvii. "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in him, and he shall
C 2 bring

bring it to pass." As a draught of cold water to one fainting with thirst, so was this text to my distressed mind. I was enabled immediately to believe that the blood of Christ had sufficient efficacy to cleanse, even me, from all my sin, and that if I persevered in seeking him, I should obtain forgiveness. I could then emphatically say, My sorrow was turned into joy; I felt a peace that I was before unacquainted with, and began to see that his ways are, indeed, ways of pleasantness. In this comfortable frame, I continued for some months, and attended the preaching of the gospel with great delight.

Mr. D—— was in London most of the winter, and his preaching was much blessed to me; though I was not without temptations and inward trials, and seemed, at times, upon the point of giving up all. But the Lord was pleased to impart a spirit of prayer; the smallest incident
in

in my concerns I was sure to lay before him; I had some very remarkable and speedy answers to prayer, which encouraged me in defiance of opposition, to go forward. Once when hearing Mr. D—— at the Lock, from Col. iii. 3. When Christ who is your life shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory—during the former part of the sermon I was remarkably dull, could neither believe nor pray; but in a moment, as it were, the cloud dispersed, the day-spring from on high dawned, yea, the Sun of Righteousness arose upon my soul, with healing under his wings. The text was brought home to my heart with such a power that I almost thought I had dropped the vail of flesh, and was entered upon the confines of immortality.

He soon went into the country, which was a great grief to me, for I thought no other minister's preaching could be

bleſſed to me, like his. I believe many think ſo, when they are newly awakened. To love the particular inſtrument who has been made uſeful to us, is right, but we ought not to put them in the Lord's ſtead, and place that dependance on them which is only due to him.

In the year 1770, I was viſited with a fever, which all around me thought would have terminated in death. Though my body was racked with pain and ſcorched, I enjoyed at times much of the Lord's preſence, and I could have undergone any ſuffering, ſo that I might

Have clapp'd my glad wing, and tower'd away,
And mingled with Eternal Day.

But after three weeks illneſs, he was pleaſed to rebuke my diſorder, and reſtore my health and ſtrength.

After all this, my religious impreſſions wore off, nay I even threw them off,
almost

almost at once. I was in company where there was dancing, and if I was particularly fond of any amusement, it was this. And though I began to think it was not consistent with my profession, I joined with the company, and came home with my heart as full of evil as it could hold. I neglected prayer, for I well knew that I could not serve God and Mammon together. For a time, (Oh! that I could write it with tears of blood,) I neither read the Scriptures, nor prayed, nor gave myself any concern about the welfare of my soul. The vanities of time and sense again engrossed my whole attention. I saw five plays in the year 1773, and could not be easy without cards and dancing. I went to that length, as to make a public ridicule of every thing serious. But even then, though I affected to despise the people of God with my lips, my heart would not consent; for I knew that they were right, and that I was wrong. Oh! if God had then cut me off, and cast me

into Hell, how just would the sentence have been!

But in March 1774, the Lord roused me from my sleep of sin, by a very awful providence; the sudden death of an intimate acquaintance and neighbour, with whom I had been walking at nine in the evening, and before one o'clock, I was called out of bed to see her a corpse. I trust that to the latest period of my life, the impression this sight made upon me, will not be forgotten. I caught a violent cold, which settled a hoarseness upon me, for near three months: during which time, the Lord was pleased to give me great brokenness of heart, for my many and wilful backslidings from him. Sometimes I feared I could not be forgiven; but the promises encouraged me. I read, He will heal their backslidings, and love them freely—that though I sought and went after other lovers, he would bring

bring me into the Wilderness, and speak comfortably to me. 'That he came into the world to save sinners, and had power to surmount and overcome every obstacle and difficulty in my way.

My dearest Saviour, forgive me, Oh! forgive me, and grant me grace to be a mourner because of my transgressions.

Thou hast forgiven me much, much therefore I ought to love thee; but without thee I can do nothing. Grant a vile backslider grace, to devote the remainder of her life to the praise and glory of thy name. Accept me as I am, and make me what thou wouldst have me be, that I may live thine, die thine, and be thine for ever. Amen! Above all, I pray thee to keep me from the infection of worldly company. None can know, but from experience, the great danger of being attached to those, who do not re-

verence God. Where there are serious impressions, they will be soon smothered, by being much conversant with those who live in the spirit of the world. Mr. D—— once said to me, I hope you are sincere; and then you may easily withstand the *frowns* of the world; but if you can withstand its *smiles*, I shall think something of you.

Ah, if Jesus the sinner's only friend, had not interposed, the world, the vain, deceitful world, would have destroyed me. It can furnish more instruments for our hurt, than there are stars in the firmament. But if our enemies are mighty, the Lord Jesus is Almighty; he can, he does, he will subdue them. He will conduct the poor sinners that cleave to him, and hang upon him, through all the changes of this mortal life, and bring them safely home to himself. Then they shall have done with sin
and

and sorrow for ever. Then they shall cast their crowns of glory at the Redeemer's feet, and ascribe, as is most justly due, Honour, Might, Majesty, Dominion and Power, to him that sitteth upon the throne, and to the Lamb for ever. God grant that I may be of the happy number.

MARGARET MAGDALEN JASPER.

Birmingham, Sept. 27, 1774.

EXTRACTS

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E X T R A C T S

FROM HER

D I A R Y.

1774.

SEPTEMBER 27. O thou Omniscent, Omnipresent Saviour! Look down from Heaven, the habitation of thy glory, upon a poor sinful creature, who intreats thy blessing and influence, in what I may from this day write down for my own edification, as time shall permit, of thy gracious dealings with my hell-deserving soul. Blessed be thy name, I can sing of mercy. Thou hast abounded towards me in loving-kindness. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless his Holy Name.

October

October 6. This verse of Pf. xlii. was much blessed to my mind, Why art thou cast down, O my soul?—hope thou in God for I shall yet praise him. A precious cordial for a sin-sick soul. O my Gracious Saviour increase my faith! All things are possible to them that believe. Lord I would believe, help thou my unbelief! Without thee I can do nothing. I cannot think a good thought, but as Thou enablest me. I desire to cast myself as a blank, into thy hands, that thou mayest write upon me, as seemeth good unto thee. I was much affected to-day, at hearing of the sudden death of a gentleman in the country. O Lord, prepare me to meet thee, that whenever death shall come, I may have nothing to do, but to die, and chearfully resign my spirit into thy hands.

12th. My mind, to day, was stupid and inattentive, and only awake to Pride
and

and Unbelief. I was tempted to think, that if I was a child of God, there would not be these changes in my frames, and feelings. But after many reflections, and a strict examination of my heart, I found the fault was entirely on my side. That text Isa. liv. was a seasonable balm for my distress, "For a small moment I have forsaken thee, but with everlasting loving-kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the Lord thy Redeemer." The apostle Paul had need of a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to buffet him. Shall I then, who am so vile and sinful, presume to contend with my Maker? God forbid. Nor let my soul sink under these afflictions; nor conclude from them that the Lord doth not love me; but rather the contrary, for whom he loveth he chasteneth. The Lord was pleased to remove the cloud, in the evening, under a sermon I heard from Math. v. 35. "Be not afraid, only believe."

26th. I was in a very peevish frame of mind to-day, could have quarrelled with myself, or with any body. Oh, when shall I be delivered from these evils? The enemy suggests I am, not fit to die. Were I to live till I am, in and of myself, fit to die, I must live for ever. My salvation must be free. And I am sure if I reach heaven, as I believe I shall, through the blood of the God-man, I shall testify to all the blessed around the throne, free, unmerited grace has brought me hither.

November 1st. Not many months ago, as those who know me can witness, to what a length of sin did I run? Even to make a public ridicule of every thing serious. The remembrance of it grieves my soul. But when I left my God, was I happy? Alas! no. There is more happiness in the cross of Christ, than in all that the world can give. Without him,

him, I must be completely miserable; and I was so then. Conscience flew in my face, and I had no power to redress myself. To him I durst not look up; but when I was fallen from him, farther than in an unwakened state, he mercifully brought me back. Let none despair of his mercy, since it has been extended to a wretch like me. O Lord, give me a broken heart.

15th. Found a blessing in prayer, and was preserved in a serene, calm spirit the former part of the day; but in the evening, gave too much way to levity. O Lord, give me a tender conscience, that I may be pricked to the heart, every time I offend. The least sin in my own sight, must be very great in the view of thy infinite purity.

December 2. O Lord thy judgments are right, and thou in very faithfulness

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hast

hast afflicted me, I have received good at thy hand, and shall I not receive evil. Only forsake me not. Help me to say with Mrs. Rowe, "I have all things in possessing thee. Whatever tempests arise yet thou art my God. I cry to thee, and the storm is appeased. I find my expectations from the world, disappointed, friends prove false, and human dependance vain; but still thou art my God, my rock, my inheritance." Can I sink with such a prop?

17. A domestic incident ruffled my temper, and it was long before I recovered humiliation and peace. Oh for a tender spirit, that I may shun the least appearance of sin! Oh for the lamb-like spirit of the Holy Jesus, who bore all his sufferings with submission and patience!

1775.

October 25. St. Sepulchre's doleful bell awakened me this morning, and
I was

I was induced to see the malefactors pass in their way to Tyburn. The sight affected me more than I can express. Methinks I could have gone and suffered for them, if that would have saved their precious souls. They seemed hardened and obdurate. Sin, what evil hast thou brought into the world! I could say, when I saw them, (like one of whom I have heard) There goes my picture. The same seed of evil, which has brought them, in the flower of youth, to an ignominious death, is in my heart also; and if not subdued by the power of God, might have prevailed, and I have been guilty of equal wickedness. Oh what has grace done for me! It has delivered me from the powers of darkness, and translated me into the kingdom of God.

November 4. How mistaken and blinded are they, who can think of de-
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ferring

ferring their repentance to a sick or dying bed! I must confess, that my disorder, which at present is only a slight cold, affects not my body only, but my mind, so that I can hardly attend to any thing serious. Nay, I feel so peevish, fretful, and dissatisfied, as if I could quarrel with myself, and with all about me. What a comfort that the Lord Jesus has declared, Sin shall not have dominion over me!

December 11. I was this day called to walk through a fiery furnace, but my Saviour was with me. His arm is omnipotent.

15. Through intricate and difficult paths, I trust the presence of the Lord was with me. Oh that I could cleave to him. Whatever he does, is well done. Nothing seems to lie before me but affliction upon affliction. My sorrows are only known to God.

31. Lord,

31. Lord, as I am constrained, by thy Providence to spend a silent Sabbath, vouchsafe me thy blessing at home, for Thou art not confined to places. Help me to examine my conduct during the year which is now closing. I am ashamed to think how many years I lived before I thought of Thee, and that since I have known Thee, I have made so little improvement. Lord, I am thine by creation, thine by redemption. Oh then, accept me as I am, make me what Thou wouldest have me to be! This year is nearly gone, Thou only knowest whether I may see the end of the following year. Oh that I may be so prepared for death, that, come when it will, I may have nothing to do, but to die. Bless my dear relatives, and save those of them, who now stand upon a dangerous precipice, from the pit of destruction. Bless all my friends, reward my benefactors, forgive my greatest enemies.

Especially bless thy dear ministers, make them burning and shining lights, and may the happy time soon arrive, when the knowledge of the Lord shall fill the land, and the earth, as the waters cover the sea.

1776.

January 18, 1776. This evening met with a grievous trial.—But hush! shall I dictate to the Lord? forbid it, O my God! may I be still and bow with humble submission, Thou knowest what is for my good. Thou hast not promised to exempt me from trials, but to support me under them. What most pained me, was a slight from one to whom I ever was a sincere friend, and whom I looked upon as a friend to me. I did not deserve it at her hands, nor could I have so treated my greatest enemy, if in my situation. But I must not shew resentment, I must endeavour to overcome evil with good. Oh that the forgiving loving spirit of my blessed Lord and master may reign in my heart!

heart! May I live upon him, and be content with every thing that befalls me!

March 27. Walked in Westminster Abbey, surveyed the sumptuous monuments containing the remains of many whose names are enrolled in the book of fame. But alas! what are they better if not found written in the Lamb's book of life! What are the great warriors and captains, to the happy souls who overcome the world, the flesh, and the devil? These great conquerors could not conquer death; but the Christian can triumph over it. The believer's name is enrolled in the annals of Heaven. May mine be buried in silence here, so that it be remembered there. My utmost ambition is then satisfied.

April 25. I have laid a very important affair before the Lord; and have a

hope that he will appear in my behalf. I know not how others may do, but sure I am, that I dare not undertake any thing, without making it matter of prayer. And though he often seems not to answer, still I must trust him. For who knows but he is now answering my prayer; though not in the manner I had conceived in my own mind. His ways and thoughts are not as mine. All that he doeth is well done.

October 2. Very busy in packing up. Gracious Saviour, keep my heart serene. To go out in the capacity of a servant, is a trial, as I was not brought up to it. But I believe it is the will of my Lord, and therefore I willingly acquiesce. May his presence go with me, and his blessing rest upon me. Lord, do with me what thou wilt, only give me grace to live to the praise and glory of thy name, Amen.

7. My

7. My mind is easier since I came into this family, and I am reconciled to my situation, in a measure though I am a servant. Lord help me to tread in thy steps, who camest into the world, not to be ministered unto, but to minister. I cannot now have much time for writing, but I hope not to give up praying. May every action of my life, be a religious act, by being performed for Thee.

April 1, 1777. This morning my dear master and family went from London for two months, and have left me in charge of the house. O Jesus, my only friend and refuge, vouchsafe me thy presence. Solemnly do I now commit myself into thy hands, to be both preserved and ruled by Thee. I am a little fearful, as I never was left in a house by myself, before. But why should I be afraid? If I belong to the Lord, thousands of ministering angels are my invisible guard:
And

And Thou thyself, art with me. Into thy hands I commit all that I have, and am, beseeching thee to keep me and the house by thine Almighty Power.

April 28. Drank tea at a house where I met with a clergyman, whose wife I might have been. A difference in sentiments was the reason I did not accept his offer. And indeed it is some degree of comfort to me, that of the many genteel offers I have had, I did not accept any. For as matters have turned out with regard to temporals, I can bless God that I now suffer as an individual, and that no one is involved in my distresses: which I trust He has sanctified to me. May he write a law of gratitude upon my heart!

June 10. I told a wilful untruth this morning, which brought such a remorse of conscience upon me through the whole day,

day, as I scarcely ever felt before. It set me upon my knees more than once. O Father forgive me for Christ's sake, and rather let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, than be suffered to speak a known falshood. Lord, what am I, if left, for a moment to myself!

12. I went out this morning about a business of my own, but went too much in my own strength. I seemed confident that I should not meet with disappointment. But the Lord shewed me, that though I had *proposed*, he had *disposed*. But of all the disappointments I have known, I never received one with more calmness and serenity than this. I was in a degree thankful. I was enabled to see that my proud heart needed this stroke to humble it. I must, and do, believe, that every dispensation of providence to me has been appointed out of love to my soul, by unerring wisdom,

to lay me low, as in the dust before the Lord. Crosses I must still expect, Lord prepare me for them.

September 5. When I came home to-day, after hearing a good sermon, a very trivial incident discomposed my mind so greatly, that I seemed as if possessed with the fury of an evil spirit. It may be well said, Out of the heart proceedeth every abomination. When I came to reflect upon my behaviour, I could truly say, The spirit of man will sustain his infirmity, but a wounded spirit who can bear? O Lord rebuke me not in anger, neither chasten me in thy hot displeasure. Lord, I acknowledge my transgression, my sin is ever before me. How could I, who profess myself a child of thine, give way to such a spirit of passion and pride! The remembrance of it cuts me deeply. I can only cast myself at thy feet with the prayer of the Publican, God be merciful to me a sinner.

Help me, O my God, for vain is the help of man !

21. A day of great temptation. The enemy pressed upon me many things in which he charged me with being a vile hypocrite both to God and man. He urged, that many go great lengths in religion, yet, at last, prove cast-aways ; and that without doubt I should be one of the miserable souls to adorn his conquests. I was distressed beyond description ; but I told him he was a liar from the beginning. But that though I justly deserved to perish, I would trust in Jesus, the sinner's Friend, and that if I did perish, it should be crying for mercy. I asked him what he thought to do with me, supposing he could get me, for none but blasphemers dwelt in his pit ; and if I was there, I could not join with them. I said, Satan, is there one praying soul in hell ? thou art constrained to answer, No. Well then, I
trust

trust the Lord will not suffer me to be the first. I am the Father's gift to the Son, and the purchase of his atoning blood; and he has said of such, They shall be with me where I am.

A sermon I heard in the evening from Zech. xiii. 7. proved very applicable to my case:—*I will bring a third part through the fire.* It was observed, the Lord, for wise reasons, puts his children into furnaces and fires, temptation is one of them. Indeed, thought I, I have had a hot bout in it this morning, Lord grant I may lose nothing by the fire, but dross, and come forth purified like gold. My soul was much broken down under the Word, and I trust I was enabled to see the hand of the Lord in the trial.

May 21. Alas! How has my diary been neglected! What was once a delight, is become a burden. I have neither
pleasure

pleasure in writing, nor in reading what I have written. Must I believe that my profession of religion has been no more than a delusion; and that my hope has been in vain; I am plunged into an abyfs of misery, and what is worse, though I know my danger, I seem not apprehensive of the consequences. From a hard and impenitent heart, good Lord deliver me, and soften it by that efficacious blood, which alone can melt the rock!

January 5, 1779. I am going to a new place in the country, upon the recommendation of Mr.— Lord grant that it may be for thy glory, and my own good. May thy presence go with me. May I seek the Lord, consult his will in his word, entreat his direction in all that I undertake, make him the beginning and the end of all my desires; then I shall be happy here and for ever.

6. Was received with great kindness. Oh that God may sanctify this retirement to me! I shall now have opportunity of admiring the works of creation. Lord grant that every sublunary beauty and blessing, may lead me to thee who art the fountain head.

May 10. My conscience accuses me of ingratitude to that friend, who, of all others, deserves every return of praise and service, that a sinful creature can give. O Lord. it is thy prerogative alone, to inspire my mind with a deep and suitable apprehension of thy majesty. Gracious Redemer, I desire, though I know it is against the flesh, that thou wilt use any correction thou seest necessary to mollify my heart, and to make it a copy of thine. I must be made perfect through sufferings. Thou hast said, In the world ye shall have tribulation, but be of good cheer, in me ye shall have
peace

peace. I praise thee that I do know a little of this peace, in the midst of crosses, losses, and disappointments. If God be mine, I have enough. May my knowledge of him daily encrease, and may it be my meat and drink to do his Will.

December 11. I have heard that the ship, in which my dear brother failed, is taken by the French, and carried into Brest. Nature feels this stroke, and all the powers of my soul are at work. But I know an over-ruling Providence directs every event that befalls the children of men; and I trust I shall know hereafter there was a need be for this. But, O my dear brother, what must you feel? O Saviour, leave him not destitute, but if it be thy will, deliver him from his confinement, and grant me to see him again in the flesh. Thy promises are my support, and it is my duty to rely upon thee. Permit me, a sinful
 E creature,

creature, to enter into a covenant with thee, my great Creator; that by thy grace and assistance, I may, and do give myself wholly up to thee, to bear whatever thy infinite wisdom sees fit to lay upon me, with that entire submission which becomes me. It is through much tribulation I must enter thy kingdom. Let me therefore account affliction a badge of honour, and a mark that I belong to thee. Yet I cannot help feeling, and I humbly hope this is not sinful. Thou didst weep over Lazarus. O Lord, though I sorrow for my brother, I submit. I only beg that thy grace may reach his heart, and that we may be happy with thee together at last, in thy heavenly kingdom, when sorrow and sighing shall be no more.

31. O Lord, how many blessings have I received from thee this year! and how ungrateful have been my returns.

turns. Thou hast preserved me safely through many dangers, trials, and backslidings. Still vouchsafe to dig about, and manure this obdurate heart, and grant that I may never rest in any condition in which my whole prospect of happiness is not fixed and centered in thee. Oh that I may love thee more, and serve thee better! and, at length, notwithstanding all impediments, be brought home to thee, to see thee as thou art.

- 1780.

April 3. I am dull, having lost my companion, who is removed to sleep in another part of the house. Indeed, my dear Miss L——, I did not know till now, how much I loved you. However, though we are parted in the night, we have many opportunities of being together in the day. I trust we can both reflect with pleasure, on the many happy retired hours we have had together.

together. May the advantages appear in our future conduct through life. May we be still united in heart, and the friendship which is begun below, be daily growing till we meet above.

June 18. What dreadful news from London! They say, that the mob, besides demolishing the Popish chapels, have destroyed the houses of many noblemen and others, set fire to the prisons, and released the convicts. Where this unhappy affair will end, the Lord only knows; but the people seem to be actuated by a spirit of rebellion. Awful judgments hang over this guilty land. Oh that in the midst of them the Lord may remember his darling attribute, Mercy!

November 4. The account I heard of my dear brother's death is confirmed. He was wounded in an engagement, and
carried

carried on shore, where he died and was buried.

I read the mournful news with sensations which I cannot describe. O my dearest brother, why was not I with thee to perform the last kind offices of life, to bathe thy bleeding wounds with my tears, to wipe the clammy sweat from thy face, and administer some consolation to thy drooping spirit? Who knows what were thy sufferings and the anguish of thy soul in the last moments of thy life? What tribute can I pay to thy memory, more than wearing a mournful habit for thy sake, and retaining thy image with the fullest impression upon my heart? There thou shalt remain the subject of my serious thoughts, and I will weep for thee in my retired hours.

Dec. 31. Another year is gone, Lord grant me grace to give up all my concerns and

my heart to thee! Pardon my many provocations and backslidings, receive me graciously, and love me freely. Sanctify all thy dispensations to me. Thou hast lately cut off a right hand. Thou hast indeed wounded me in a tender part, but as I trust it was with a design to cure, though one whom I dearly prized is gone, I will still say, Thy will, O Lord, be done.

1781.

January 21. I was favoured this morning with uncommon freedom in prayer. And having endeavoured to take an impartial review of my conduct through the last year; I confess, with shame and confusion of face, that I have not lived, O Lord, as becomes a child of thine; I have not kept up the dignity of a King's daughter, but forgetting my noble privileges, I have stooped
too

too much to the groveling vanities of this world.

O Lord, I *have* nothing to recommend me to thy favour. I must come as a beggar pleading for that mercy, which Thou art more ready to give than I to receive. I can *do* nothing; not so much as think one good thought without thee. I cannot trust to past experience, yea, I will not. I cannot trust to my frames and feelings, they often deceive me. I desire to renounce and abhor myself in every view I can take; and to come to thee this evening, as the vilest sinner breathing, to receive a full remission of my sins, and grace to devote my future life to Thee alone.

Feb. 11. It is my desire, and the Lord knows it is, to have no will of my own. I am convinced that he can do me no wrong; and I am happy when I

can trace his providence in every event of my life. Nothing can happen by chance. I bless his name, that I am, in some measure, thankful, that He has placed me in a state of dependance; by which I have gained such experiences, as I would not be without for the world.

March 21. The returning spring begins to appear, the snow-drop shews its head, the violet cheers us with perfume. The hedges and the trees are shooting forth their buds, and in a few weeks they will be drest in all their beauty, and the pretty birds sheltered by their shade, will tune their notes to their Creator's praise. Few are acquainted with the real pleasure of a retired life in the country; I would not exchange it for the most magnificent palace, for all the grandeur the world can bestow. Here, my mind, free from the cares and hurries of the world, can contemplate the wondrous

drous works of an Almighty hand. I prefer the beauties of the early dawn, to the finest sight the art of man can produce. How beautiful the streaks of gold which tinge the clouds; then the rising sun diffuses lustre all around, and the damps and chills of the night, give place to the light and heat of day. Come you pleasure takers, who waste the day, and great part of the night, in dissipation and folly; leave your downy pillows, and view the splendors of the morning! Creation, and all its works, fulfill the commands of God, and nothing but order and regularity is seen. Not so with man, he alone dares defy the authority of his Maker.

April 1. The glory of the Lord shall fill the house of the Lord. How emphatically is this promise fulfilled, when the preaching of the gospel is attended with power and energy to the sinner's heart! Though hard as a flint, it then melts like wax before the fire, and be-
comes

comes susceptible of the impressions of divine grace. O Jesus, my master, look down in mercy upon me, and warm my heart with such a sense of thy love, that from the strongest principle, gratitude, I may love thee above all!

May 8. The experience of every day rebukes my heart for its ingratitude. I am engaged to love thee by the strongest ties, for Thou hast abounded in mercy and loving-kindness to me. Yet my insensible heart can be unmindful of Thee, and can sometimes question the power, the goodness, yea, the very Being of my God. Lord, what a poor creature am I in my best estate! Oh, be pleased to strengthen my faith, to confirm my hope, and to re-convert every moment all the faculties of my soul, to be instruments of thy praise as they have been of thy dishonour.

June 1. My wishes aspire beyond the bounds of earthly things. I desire to look, with the utmost indifference, upon all that would stand in competition with Thee. And though a prisoner upon earth, I would mount on the wings of holy thoughts and meditations, to the throne of glory. There, with Mary, to cast myself at the Redeemer's feet, and learn of him who is meek and lowly. May I cast all my sins into his sepulchre; and especially that abominable sin, pride. Lord, root it for ever out of my heart!

Do I not too often mistake self-love, for the love of Jesus? and by looking too much to my frames and feelings, dishonour him, whom I wish to prefer as my chief good! My heart is deceitful above all things; and when my spirit is calm and happy, is too prone to lead me to think myself something, when in reality I am nothing but sinful dust.

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Gave my little mite to the poor sufferers by the late fire. Lord accept it, could I have afforded, I would have given much more. Could I envy the rich, it would be for the opportunities they have of doing good. But where little is given, little is required. I am content. I ask not for riches or honours, but this one thing I do ask, for an understanding heart, to know myself and Thee. And then, who will, may take the world, and all its vanities, for me.

July 1. What blessed seasons did my soul enjoy, when, with humble boldness, I could call Thee mine! When I knew my title to Heaven was no less sure, than if I was already there! Those were golden hours, but alas! they are gone. My sun has withdrawn his beams, and a gloomy night has succeeded, O Lord, most holy, O God, most mighty, suffer me not to add sin unto sin. My
peace

peace depends upon thy favour, if deprived of that, I must be miserable! But return unto thy rest, O my soul, the Lord is merciful, and full of compassion, and will not cast off for ever.

13. Lord thou hast been a guide and a father to me who never knew my own father. But I trust he feared thee, and slept in Jesus. He chose for his funeral text, Isa. xxxviii. 17. Thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back. Being a little way out of London for the benefit of the air, he came to town with my mother and uncle. My uncle remarking it was a bad day, (it snowing very fast,) He said, Oh, it is a fine day for my soul to go to Heaven. He had just got out of the coach, and seated himself in a chair, when he died without a groan. I was then only two years of age, and can have no remembrance of him; but I trust to meet him, with all the blood-bought children of God, before the throne.

October

October 26. We are about removing to London, the place of my nativity, and the scene of many sorrows to me. Sanctify them, gracious Lord, and they shall be blessings. And now I beseech Thee to prepare me, for whatever Thou hast prepared for me. Farewel rural retreats, where I have enjoyed sweet intercourse with Thee. Thou didst love retirement when on earth, and didst spend whole nights in prayer, for sinners like me. May I follow thy example, and improve every opportunity of secluding myself from the hurry of a giddy world.

1782.

January 5. Lord, on thy truth I build my hopes for time and eternity; in other things, my views and hopes are often disappointed; but in Thee I find an ever-flowing spring of consolation; and since thou remainest unchangeable,
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my, all is safe. If thy truth could fail, the blessed regions above would be filled with horror, and the saints in light would have no security for their bliss! But in thine immutability, all their joys and comforts are safe. My soul shall therefore make her boast in the Lord!

February 1. Lord, pity the poor, in this sharp weather, and incline the rich to relieve them. We have many noble charitable institutions; but still, was the one half spent in folly and dissipation, employed in these uses, how many sorrowful hearts, widows, and fatherless would rejoice! and what blessings would redound to the chearful giver! If ye have done it to one of the least of these, our Lord says, ye have done it unto me. What consolation in a dying hour, from a consciousness, that time, talents, and fortune, were devoted to his service! Our good works will
not

not recommend us to the favour of God, but as evidences of our love to him, they will meet with acceptance. Surely they who love Christ, will love to tread in his steps. And he went about doing good to the bodies and minds of sinners, and some of his greatest enemies were partakers of his bounty.

March 3. I was remarkably favoured this morning in meditation, before we met in family worship. I could, with sweet and humble freedom, converse with the God who made me. I had such manifestations of his love to my soul, that I was, as it were, caught up to the third heaven, and could not but say, Now, take me to thy kingdom, that I may see Thee face to face, without a veil. I do, in a measure, find my affections deadened to every thing but Thyself. There is nothing here which I covet, or which I would not joyfully leave.

leave. Oh then satisfy my longing desires, and conduct me to the land of peace, to my heavenly home!

April 7. Blessed be thy great name—Thou hast in a measure removed the violent disorder from my throat and breast. I was indeed within sight of the grave, and expecting to be choaked. But I praise Thee that my mind was quite easy, my hope blooming and full of immortality, and I could look upon death as a conquered enemy. But since it is thy pleasure that I should live longer here, I determine, in thy strength, and in thy name, to go forth against every enemy of my soul, and every hindrance to my salvation, until Satan be finally bruised under my feet. The world shall no longer divide my heart with my Saviour, for He must, and shall, have the whole.

April 24. I think not so much of the terrors of death, as of his commission. This is from the Lord, and though he be a messenger in mourning, he will bring good news. Oh, that I may be in a right frame of mind, when this ambassador from the King of Kings shall demand an audience! This world is not my rest. I was formed for nobler enjoyments, than I am capable of attaining to here. And though the way to my crown lies through the valley of the shadow of death, since it is but a shadow why should I fear it? The more I contemplate death, the milder his aspect appears. What joy will it give me, to leave this frail and sinful; body, to be joined to my glorious Head; and to exchange a life of trouble, for life eternal.

Oh my gracious Redeemer, forgive me, I beseech thee, if my earnest desire to be gone is sinful! Endue me with that
sweet

sweet resignation which may sink my will into thine. I must say, with Mr. Janeway, that the greatest act of patience is, to be willing to live. When I think of that kingdom, that glory, which is reserved for me in Heaven, I can scarcely be content to live another day upon earth. The world has no allurements for me. My heart is raised above it. Oh, that I had wings like a dove, then would I fly away and be at rest.

June 1. Dispose my heart, O Lord, to admire and adore thy infinite goodness? Another alarming stroke was needful to humble my pride, and to shew me that in my best estate, I am but dust. On Tuesday last, I thought indeed the pulse of life would quickly stop. I had not been well for some time, but that day I was exceedingly ill. Mrs. L—— in the morning kindly desired me to go to bed. But as she was herself unwell, and it was

busy time, I could not think of it. At seven in the evening, being much worse, I went into my room. I had no sooner sat down, than I found something uncommon coming over me, and I seemed to be in the agonies of death. My hands and feet were cold and contracted. I was unwilling to alarm the family, but fearing, if I did not, and they should come in, and find me dead, the consequences might be worse; I knocked, for I could not move. Miss L—— came up immediately, I begged her not to be alarmed, but I believed I was dying. She called her Mamma; they tried, in vain, to open my hands, which seemed already dead. Mr. L—— although very ill himself, ran for the Doctor. When he came, I had, in some measure, recovered the use of my hands, but the agitation of my whole body was very great. He ordered me to be put to bed instantly, and to have my hands and feet

feet rubbed with a strong decoction of mustard, which had no effect for several days, the numbness was so great. I feared I should lose the use of my limbs, I thank the Lord that fear is now removed, but I still feel the effects of this shock, and expect I shall feel it for some time. Oh that these things may wean me from the world! If my path to Heaven was smooth, I fear I should forget the crown of glory. Bodily afflictions, crosses, and disappointments, teach me to long for a better state, where sufferings shall not reach me. My warmest thanks are due to Mr. and Mrs. L—, and Miss, for their affectionate and tender behaviour. I am grieved when I reflect on the trouble I have given to this family. But I trust, that my Lord, who has in mercy engaged to pay all my debts, will abundantly repay them; for he has said, If but a cup of cold water be given, in his name, it shall not lose its reward!

July 1. (In the country.) I was delighted this morning, when walking in the fields, to see the lustre of the drops of dew, which might vie in brilliancy with the finest diamond. But they are short-lived ornaments. An hour or two hence I might look for them in vain. Surely, they are a fit emblem of the best things which earth can afford. They may have a beautiful appearance, but are not lasting. Merciful Creator, inspire me with a holy contempt of the world, and of all sublunary enjoyments; that I may look at it, as I do at the dew upon the grass, as yielding but a momentary satisfaction!

August 12. Assured of an interest in the blood and righteousness of the Son of God, what can greatly alarm me? I covet not the applause of men. I ask no more on this side Heaven, than to lead a life of faith and devotedness to God,
and

and to enjoy heart-felt communion with my Lord. Nor can my desires be satisfied with less.

October 1. Dare I set bounds to thy goodness, or presume to limit thy patience? O my gracious God, I again intreat thee to forgive me, *because Thou hast forgiven me*. Oh, accept, (I trust,) the penitential sighs of my heart. I may say with David, Against thee only have I sinned. For though the command I had over my temper, prevented it from breaking out, what pride and passion didst thou see working in my breast! Oh this besetting sin! When shall I conquer it? I abhor it in others, and am often the first to discern it, in them. I am sensible the proud persons most resemble the devil. Alas! how often am I like him. Merciful Saviour, be pleased to dethrone this idol. Down with it, down with it, even to the ground.

Make me humble in spirit, and holy in life, that I may be truly a follower of the meek and lowly Lamb of God!

November 6. What can this world afford me, but confusion and disorder? Abiding peace and tranquillity, are blessings remote from a state beset with evils. Yet, the soul that enjoys communion with God, and is reconciled to him in Christ, does find an inward peace, in the midst of outward distractions, from an assured confidence in his unchangeable promises, and almighty power: and desires to hear no voice but the Lord's, and to walk in no path, but that which He marks out.

17. I have been enabled to lay the case of a very dear friend before the Lord. The prospect I had of seeing the work of God, which I hoped was begun in his heart, increase, is greatly darkened.

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A spirit of levity seems to have stifled every serious impression. Alas! how many snares are there to entangle young converts. Our best resolutions, unless confirmed by the assistance of God, are but like the morning cloud, or the early dew! How awful is it to draw back, after seeming to set out well, and to bid fair for obtaining the prize! Lord, give the dear youth to see the sublime design of thy gospel! a separation from the world and all its vanities, a surrender of the heart to God, to be no longer our own, but devoted to him. How dreadful, to rest in any condition, in which our Everlasting All is not secured! The promises belong only to them who hold out to the end. O Lord, give him to see his danger before it be too late; and to reflect on the sorrow he once felt for sin, and the prayers which he once offered with so much fervency!

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In the afternoon, I heard Dr. W——. I was exceedingly struck on going into the chapel, it being the place I had known in better days. Oh, that I could forget what I once was, and fix my thoughts on what I now am; a poor outcast amongst men, yet, through grace, a daughter of the great King! What then can I desire more? All is mine, for I am Christ's.

30. Alas! how changeable is the human mind: A very dear friend, one who shall always be dear to me, and who, to speak with the apostle, would once, had it been possible, have plucked out her own eyes, to have given them to me, can now behave with the greatest distance and reserve. The cause I know not; if the fault be mine, Lord help me to see it, and be humbled for it. It has given me much pain, for I cannot well bear a slight from those, for whom I
have

have more than a common affection. May I learn from this, the very important lesson, to put no confidence in man; who, in his best estate, is vanity and inconstancy. Had it been an enemy, it would have grieved me less. But it was thou, my friend, my companion, with whom I took sweet counsel. But must we part in spirit? Impossible! Till death shall close my eyes, I will not cease to pray for you, treat me with what contempt you will. Oh what a mercy is it, that whom the Lord loveth, he loveth to the end. He is an unchangeable friend, that sticketh closer than a brother. Oh that I could depend more upon him, and less upon creatures!

1783.

January 22. I have lately been in high spirits, having been favoured with a long respite from bodily affliction; and like the Psalmist, began to think
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that my mountain stood strong. But I have been humbled by the chastisement of an indulgent father; God treats me as a child. He saw the cold, and sore throat, which are now upon me, were necessary to prove my faith, love, and obedience. I acquiesce. Deny me not thy gracious support, and I will endure, with cheerfulness, whatever thou art pleased to lay upon me. When I awoke the other night, almost choaked, and could neither speak nor swallow; I was unhappy to find my mind disturbed and confused. I hope it was chiefly owing to an acute pain in my head. For still, I bless the Lord, I can say, I am not afraid to die. Jesus is mine, and I am his; what then have I to fear?

31. Lord, I tremble when I recollect the temptations I have lately endured; and still more, to think of my unbelief, and my ingratitude to thee, in questioning

ing thy wisdom and goodness; as if Thou wast accountable to me for thy dispensations. Shall the thing formed say to him that made it what doest Thou? Oh that I had but patience to see the end! for then I shall be constrained to say, Thou hast done all things well. I once had worldly prospects, but I placed too much dependance on them. Therefore Thou wert graciously pleased to remove them; and ought this to give me concern? Should I not rather be thankful, that by these means, thou hast, in some measure, weaned me from a deceitful world, and imbittered the sweets of life, to make me seek my comforts in Thee!

February 17. Satan tries to sift me as wheat, but Jesus has prayed for me; my trust is in him, therefore I shall not be overcome. The enemy has been touching upon the old string—That I am a mere hypocrite, that my Diary is
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all deceit and the flights of imagination, that I write from a motive of ostentation, which will only sink me deeper in guilt, and add to my condemnation, and that therefore I had better destroy it, and not leave it as a witness against myself. But to thee, Oh my God, who knowest the secrets of all hearts, I can appeal; that my motives for beginning and continuing this Diary, are my own edification, and that I may more distinctly admire thy goodness to such an unworthy wretch. When it has answered these ends, my friends may inter it with me, in my coffin. But I trust no temptation shall prevail with me to omit writing.

May 1. I have again exchanged the noise and hurry of the city, for my beloved retreat in the country, where I hope to be favoured with the Lord's presence, and to be again happy in the company of a most dear friend. May the Lord sanctify

tify our meeting, and may we one day meet in Heaven, to part no more. How beautiful the face of nature appears. The gay landscape around me declares the mighty works of God, and that, from winter barrenness, his power can create new life. Shall I then doubt his power in raising my dead soul to life, or in forming my body anew, after it has slept in the dust?

11. A letter brought me the mournful news of my dear mother's death. This day fortnight I took leave of her. The messenger attested her, and in thirty-eight hours she was removed to an eternal state. Lord grant that I may meet her in Heaven! Support me, O thou friend of sinners, under this dispensation. May it be a warning to me, to prepare for a sudden death. Then, come when it will, it will lead me to a sudden, yea, everlasting glory. Oh, my dear mother,
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could I have seen you in your last moments, and received your dying blessing! but I trust we shall meet again; I must indulge the pleasing hope; for I cannot bear to part with you for ever.

July 10. Very hot weather, and at night an awful storm. I thought one clap of thunder; the loudest I ever heard, had shaken our house from the foundation. The heavens opening, the thunder roaring, the house rocking, the windows trembling, methought nothing was wanting to complete the alarming scene, but the quaking of the earth beneath us. One of our young gentlemen was looking at his watch, when a flash of lightning tore the shagreen from the case. What a merciful providence, that it stopped there, and did not strike him dead upon the floor! May this singular instance of God's protection awaken in him a suitable return of gratitude.

titude. And as he is designed to appear in a public character, may he live to be a useful labourer in the Lord's vineyard!

September 29. Am I not like a pelican in the wilderness? My dear father, mother, and brother are gone; and I am still left an orphan in this perplexing world of sin and sorrow. Lord, why is this? Thou knowest that I love not the world, nor its vanities. My heart would fain be at rest, my body longs for the grave, and my immortal part is on the wing for heaven. Oh haste my beloved, and remove me from a land in which I never can be happy! Why must I still sojourn so far from my father's house? But thy time is best. I will wait for it. I can rely upon thy promise, that I shall, at last, sit down with thee in thy kingdom. What a consolation!

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folation! Can I, or ought I, to desire more!

October 1. A meer trifle discomposed my mind much; Oh that I were as anxious about things of more consequence! I lost something I valued out of my pocket; and missed it just as I was going to church. I could not get the better of my concern during the sermon. When I came home, like the woman in the gospel, I lighted a candle and searched diligently till I had found it; then my heart was glad. Oh, that I could always act with such circumspection, when my Saviour withdraws his presence from my soul! Was I equally earnest in seeking after him, as I was to find, what, in comparison, is a meer nothing, I should not seek in vain!

October 27. Set out early for London. But first redeemed some time for prayer,

prayer, in which my heart was enlarged. Lord, I entreat thee let thy presence go with me; and cover my defenceless head with the shield of thy power. Thou, alone, knowest the weight that hangs upon my mind. Oh, undertake for me, for I am indeed oppressed!

November 3. I sat up late last night, reading the experience of Mrs. S——. I found many excellent passages in it, but I think the book wants much correction. Went this morning early, to hear the Rev. Mr. ——. He said good things; but as his discourse was chiefly adapted to the members of his own society, I was disappointed. My heart was lifted up in prayer, that if I was in an error, the Lord would be pleased to shew it me. And that if Mr. ——— was, he might discover it time enough to prevent the torrent, which I

fear will, otherwise, burst forth after his death. I am sorry to see the extremes, to which things are carried on both sides. Oh! that the great contest might be, who should love the Lord most, and serve him best!

December 1. O Lord, my God, am I not thine? I pray thee do with me, dispose of me, for the best. A change of state has this day been proposed to me, and there seems the hand of thy providence in the whole affair. But O my Saviour, let me ever, and from my heart say, Not my will, but thine be done. My friends approve it, and I think it my duty to pay some regard to their advice: but a business for life, requires deliberate consideration. Lord, do thou direct me. Let me do nothing to offend thee. Rather let prospects and affections be crossed, than become a snare to draw my heart from thee; and let

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every earthly love be held in due subordination to thine.

December 7. My friends are very solicitous to bring about this marriage; but if it be not first made in heaven, good Lord grant that it may never be celebrated upon earth; but do thou interpose, and snatch me from the snare. Let no prospect, however advantageous, prompt me to do that of which I hereafter may repent. But if the union be of thy appointment, grant me grace that I may fill up my place and situation as becomes a servant of thine, and so as not to bring a scandal, nor even a blemish, upon my profession.

26. This day removes me from a family, some of whom are dear to me as my own life. May the best of blessings rest upon them all. Hasten, dear Lord, the day, when I hope we

shall meet in thy presence to part no more.

1784.

January 1. O my all-sufficient Friend! I bless the day that ever I became thine. Let thy favour be mine inheritance. I cannot go astray if guided by thee. In thy everlasting arms I am safe; whether I am to have poverty or riches, honour or contempt, all will be in covenant love. I begin this new year, O Lord, with a new and solemn surrender of myself to Thee. Oh, forbid, that any new prospects in life should prove the occasion of weaning my affections from thee, whom I am bound to serve by the strongest motives! My heart must, and shall be thine.

7. Last night was spent in prayer and tears to God, for his blessing upon the event of this day, wherein I am to change

change my name and state. I hope, I have not been too hasty, the character of the person being so well known; and though I have not been long acquainted with *him*; He has known *me* seventeen years.

January 8. The great event is past, and can never be recalled. May I never forget the sacred engagement I have made in the house of God, and in the presence of his people. I have given myself to a husband; but still the noblest powers of my mind must be devoted to the Lord. O may the Lord bless us with the light of his countenance, while travelling together through this wilderness; and, at last, may we dwell with thee, in thy kingdom. There may we, and the dear children be admitted, with a Come, ye blessed of my Father!

25. Once more I have taken my seat in the chapel in which I was confirmed.

When I first entered the pew, where I had often formerly sat with pleasure, I was much affected. Oh! what changes have I seen in a few years! May I not add, what a change have I seen of late! Why did I ever distrust thy wisdom, O Lord, and say with Jacob, All these things are against me? When thy overruling hand, in a mysterious way, was directing the most minute concerns of my life, to work together, for my temporal, as well as my spiritual good!

April 1. I have been very poorly of late, which has reminded me of the instability of all creature comforts. Happy is that soul, whose only repose is in Christ! Let sickness, or death, appear in their gloomy forms, they cannot separate us from the love of Christ! Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors!

April 4.

April 4. Received an account of our little Charlotte's death, of the whooping-cough. I little thought when I saw the sweet innocent, but two days ago, that she was so near her end. But we have this consolation, that she is happy, and with her kindred spirits, singing the praises of her God and Saviour. Oh that I may soon join with her in the delightful employment!

May 10. How apt are the cares of this world to draw the mind from heavenly things! But let me shake myself from the dust, and may every avenue of my heart be open to the impressions of divine grace, that I may be rooted and grounded in the knowledge of my Saviour. My obligations to him are very great, and still he daily affords me new favours. The solicitude I feel to please a beloved husband often upbraids me with the coolness of my affection to my Great Husband,

Husband, my Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel. I cannot receive kindness from my husband, without making all the return in my power. My affection to him increases daily, and I think to promote his good I could part with life. Can I feel thus towards a sinner like myself, and be less sensibly influenced by the goodness of my Creator? Oh the frailty of the human heart!

October 3. Was at my Redeemer's table to-day, with my beloved husband. Lord give us grace to live devoted to thee while on earth, and then to sit down at the marriage-supper of the Lamb, in glory.

10. Call upon me, says my Lord, in the day of trouble, and I will deliver thee. In my present situation to whom can I look for help but unto thee? My apprehensions are, at times, awakened,
and

and I fear, left in the hour of distress I should prove a coward. But may thy promise and thy power be my support. If it please thee, make me the joyful mother of a living and perfect child, that may be devoted to thee from the womb. But as all events are in thy hand, and I know not how thou may'st see fit to deal with me, may I be resigned to thy will!

November 4. May songs of praise resound from my heart and tongue for the great deliverance the Lord has vouchsafed to me. I found that word fulfilled. In sorrow shalt thou bring forth children. It was a trying time, but he heard my prayers, and has given me a well formed and living child, which I have dedicated, both body and soul, to his service. When the dear little infant was laid by my side, I could not help weeping over it, while I prayed that the Lord would
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take it under his protection, and give us grace to bring it up for Him.

November 25. Necessary attendance on my sweet babe takes up much of my time. Forbid, O Lord, that it should take off my heart from thee! If creature love draws the affections from the great object, our greatest blessings become our greatest snares. Love is due to our relatives, but it must be limited; otherwise, we set up a golden calf of our own, to worship, and then we may expect the Lord will remove the idol. For, he says, Give *me* thy heart. When I was single, I could say, Lord here is mine; accept it and do with it what Thou wilt. But now my regard for a worthy indulgent husband, and my child, makes me tremble for myself, lest I should be too much attached to creatures. Dear Saviour, have mercy on us both; let us not be idols to each other;

other; but may we strengthen each others hands, so to pass through things temporal, as finally to appear approved and accepted in thy kingdom.

1785.

July 20. How does the activity of men, in the little affairs of life, condemn my remissness in greater concerns! Rouse thyself, my soul, and pursue thy christian course with renewed alacrity. The crown of glory hangs over thy head! Be sure thou keep that in thy view, and the world, with all its allurements, under thy feet. Catch not at shadows, but seek realities. Seek with fervency those blessings, which will give peace in life, and comfort in a dying hour. Then thy conflicts will be rewarded, and what was the reproach and scorn of fools, will meet with the applause of angels. Then my eyes shall behold the Great King in his
beauty,

beauty, and contemplate his glorious perfections, to all eternity.

September 1. The hand of the Lord has been again upon me, and brought me near to the gates of death. But my faith was not so strong, nor my prospects so bright, as in times past. I felt an unwillingness to leave my earthly comforts. Oh, Lord, search the inmost recesses of my heart, and if there be any thing that stands in competition with Thee, blot out the darling vanity from my breast.

September 14. I have not yet recovered my health and strength. Alas! what a poor creature am I! what a murmuring and repining spirit have I felt, against the God that made me! how are the people deceived who think well of me! I lately asked my dear husband, what could be the cause of my
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impatience, when formerly I could so willingly submit to the Lord's hand and providence in afflictions. His answer struck me to the heart, and has made me weep many times since:—That he was afraid I did not live so near to God, as I once did, and he hoped that he was not the cause. Alas! is not this the very case? Have I the same consolation in prayer, in reading, in meditation, that I have had, or are these not now rather matters of form, than of pleasure? Am not I afraid to dive to the bottom of my treacherous heart? Do not I say, peace, peace, when the Lord sees there is nothing but confusion? Are not my tempers changed for the worse? Instead of being more humble and meek, am I not haughty and imperious? O Lord, my iniquities are great and many, yet, with all my guilt, I must take up the language of Peter, To whom must or can I go, but to Thee? Thou hast
had

had mercy, thou canst have mercy, even upon me. Lord, save me, or I perish. Oh wash me from my sins, in thy precious cleansing blood.

The soul that has truly tasted that the Lord is gracious, can find no peace or comfort, without the presence of Christ. My late temptations have confirmed this truth to me. Oh that the love of my Saviour may melt and change my heart throughout; that I may no more return to folly, but cleave to him with full purpose of soul !

1786.

January 1. Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ, the glorious Son of righteousness, shall enlighten thee, and cause his light to shine upon thee, with convincing brightness. In myself, like the earth at the creation, I am dark and formless. It is God
alone,

alone, who by his power can command new life within me. Enlighten me, therefore, O Lord, that I may sincerely repent of all my sins and follies, which are more in number than the hairs of my head, and grant that the last year may put an end to the wanderings of my mind; and that with this new year I may begin again to love and serve thee, with renewed strength.

Jan. 22. The Lord has again shewn his goodness, in recovering my dear infant, from the hooping-cough, and small-pox. He had them by God's inoculation, which is better than that of Man; and blessed be his Holy Name, my child is perfectly restored to health. May he be devoted to God from his infancy! May he glorify his Maker on earth, and after death, sing his praises in a better world.

In the evening I went to hear the minister, whose meeting-house must be pulled down to make way for the erection of a new play-house, the foundation of which has already been laid in blood; a mother and her infant having lost their lives by a building falling upon them. Were there not places of dissipation enough without this addition? Satan envies the spreading and flourishing of the gospel. It seems his time now, but by and by the scene will be reversed, and the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his Christ. May success and a blessing attend the minister who is thus constrained to give place; and may he be an instrument of turning many from darkness to light!

April 11. What shall I render to the Lord for all his goodness! How often have I been cast into the furnace of sickness! The last was indeed a fiery trial.

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A violent fever brought me to the very gates of death; but they were bolted and barred against me; I believe, in answer to my dear husband's prayers. I believe if the thread of my life had been cut, it would have separated as happy a pair, as can be found in the marriage-state; and this dearest of all human ties, was very near my heart. Often have I been able to say with the Apostle, I desire to depart and to be with Christ. But this time, when I saw him who is so dear to me, sitting by my bedside and weeping over me, it shook my resolution; and I could not help praying that the Lord would yet spare me, for his sake, and for the sake of my sweet babe. He has been pleased to grant my request. Oh that gratitude and praise may fill up the remnant of my life!

April 29. I was scarcely recovered from a violent fever myself, when my

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husband

husband was taken ill with one, which deprived him of his senses for nine days. What I suffered in my mind during those nine days, no creature can conceive. My solicitude for him, so justly dear to me, the care of a family, and the weight of business which lay upon me, were burdens which I could hardly bear. But the Lord fulfilled his promise, that His strength should be perfected in my weakness. And now He hath put a song of praise into my mouth, for the prospect of his recovery. May he, from this illness, reap the fruits of gracious experience, and be by love constrained to live wholly to thee. O Lord, never let us forget thy loving-kindness to us. In life may we record thy mercy, in death rejoice in thy goodness.

June 9. Praise the Lord, O my soul.
He has again delivered me from death,
and made me the mother of another
living

living child, which he was pleased to take himself in a few hours after the birth. Dare I repine? No, since after all the illness in the family, He has mercifully spared my dear husband. I willingly resign the lovely infant, to him who had a right to take it. The little stranger was born for heaven, and saw nothing agreeable in this world. It moaned to be released from a body of sin, and to join the infant throng that surrounds the throne. Happy voyager (as Mr. Hervey writes) no sooner launched than arrived at the haven!

August 1. How mysterious are the ways of Providence! This happy day has brought my dearly beloved aunt to live with us. A few years ago I was as an outcast, almost without friends, and very unlikely to possess the blessings which I now enjoy,—a kind husband, a comfortable home, and every thing

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that can make life agreeable. But my trust was in the Lord, and he has done great things for me; and now to crown all, he has sent me my much loved aunt, a christian indeed, in whom there is no guile. I consider it as a great honour to have a person of her exemplary piety under my roof; and I doubt not, if I behave with that tenderness and respect, which it is both my duty, and the wish of my heart to shew her, that a blessing from the Lord will rest upon our house, as upon the house of Obed-edom. It shall be my happy employ to render her every service in my power, that her declining years may be spent in peace.

October 22. I am sorry to find so much passion and pride still remaining in my heart. This day I grieved my beloved husband, by an imprudent zeal, which he thought did not become me.

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Though I might be unguarded in some expressions, my intention was good, and I believe I had the word of God on my side. But I confess I was too hasty. I soon saw my fault, and I trust, have sincerely mourned for it. I pray that both God and he may forgive me. Oh how very circumspect ought a professor of the gospel to be!

November 20. I trust I have had a foretaste this evening, of the happiness which will, ere long, commence, when I shall be admitted to the marriage-supper of the Lamb. Mr. M—— drank tea with us, and on account of my dear aunt's confinement from the house of God, administered to her, and a select company, the Holy Communion. It was a solemn season; and I trust the Lord was with us, according to his promise, That were two or three are met together in his Name, He will

be in the midst of them. I envy not the people of the world, their pleasures and amusements, which will not bear reflection. But to anticipate the joys of heaven, is substantial pleasure indeed.

1787.

January 1. I desire to be thankful for all the mercies and blessings of the last year. O that a law of gratitude may be written upon my heart, and my future life be a constant course of devotedness to God! May his blessing rest upon me, upon my beloved husband, and the dear children, that we may serve the Lord here, and at length be with him for ever! Lord, give me grace to know thee, to know myself, and to know the world aright!

7. I awoke this morning with a sweet serenity upon my mind, and entreated the Lord to crown this day (my wed-

ding-day) with a peculiar benediction. May the Almighty Friend, who hath hitherto been my helper, give me, and my dear partner, grace to walk together in his fear and love ! I would be thankful that the Lord has given me such a husband. With respect to worldly matters, the Lord has been very gracious ; may a sense of his goodness fill our hearts with gratitude and praise. May our children be his children, and may my dear infant be taught to love him in early life. I thank Him who has given him such a capacity, that it is a pleasure to teach him, though he is but a little turned of two years old. Let not my heart be set too much upon him, for he is indeed an endearing child. If I can give him nothing else, I will lay up for him a good store of prayers, which I hope will be answering, when I am sleeping in the dust.

June 10.

June 10. When I retired this evening for prayer, my sweet Henry was in the room, at play. But when he saw me kneel, the dear little creature came and kneeled by me, and lifting up his hands, watched the motions of my lips to speak after me. It affected me much; and I could not help pouring out my tears and prayers plentifully for him. Grant, O Lord, that if his life be spared, he may be a true and faithful servant of thine! Thousands of petitions have been laid up for him, both before and since his birth. O Lord, forbid, that I should ever bear a child that should be an enemy to thee, and to thy cause! I do not desire great things for him in this world, only remember him with the favour that thou bearest to thy people, and I am satisfied.

September 15. Hold out faith and patience a little longer, and all shall be well.

well. Sighs and groans shall soon be changed into everlasting hallelujahs. A few efforts more, and the summit of my wishes, will be gained. In my Father's house are many mansions, and blessed be his name, there is one for such a wretch as I. I shall see my Saviour, without an interposing cloud; I shall join the sons of light in his praise, and for ever celebrate the virtues of his blood. O Lord Jesus, thou art my only hope! As a sinner who has nothing to trust in, I flee to thee. If I look to myself, I see nothing but what deserves condemnation; but if, from self, I look to thee, I see only salvation and blessings.

November 26. Again, O Lord, thou hast heard and supported me, given strength to thy servant, and made me a joyful mother. Oh, that both root and branch may be devoted to thee. My soul was full of trouble, the snares of death

death compassed me about, but now the Lord has put a new song into my mouth.

December 8. And is she indeed departed—my aunt, my dearest, most valued friend! It is too true. Can my tears soon cease to flow for her, who has emphatically been more than a mother to me? Every thing that bears the resemblance of goodness in me, I first derived from her. She was the instructor of my infant mind, and taught me early to reverence my Maker, and to attempt the paths of religion. It was through her, I first had the privilege of hearing the blessed gospel. But I shall see her no more in this world. How did she, with uplifted eyes, breathe out her requests to the Lord, for blessings upon me and mine! Never can I forget her kindness to me in my last lying-in; with what affection she spoke, when she was brought

brought into my room, and how she prayed over me and the dear babe. O my beloved aunt, many an hour shall be consecrated to thy memory! Very pleasant thou wast to me in life, and death, I trust, shall not long divide us. She breathed her last, yesterday, the 7th, in the 85th year of her age. Her sufferings in her last illness were great. She prayed for support, and was answered. From the time she was taken ill, to her death, she was a pattern of patience. Not one complaining word dropped from her lips. A few hours before she died, she took my hand, and looking around earnestly, cried, in a seeming extacy, "There they all stand." But her speech faltered, and she could add no more. I apprehend, that (like Elisha's servant and Stephen) she saw the Angels, who were waiting to convey her spirit to the regions of peace and joy.

1788.

June 26. I have taken my dear Henry into the country, for the benefit of the air, fearing he is going into a decline. The lively bloom that adorned his cheeks, is changed to a languid paleness. Night sweats, loss of strength, and a visible decay, alarm me. I have been for some weeks, in what Young calls,—the post of observation—darker every hour. Lord, may it please Thee to bless the means used for his recovery, and grant me the happy privilege of bringing him up for thee! I do not desire to see him great; but I earnestly desire to see him good! He is a child of strong passions. Oh, subdue them, and let the Lamb-like spirit of the humble Jesus take possession of his mind! I am sorry to find my heart so much attached to this beloved object, lest thou shouldst deprive me of him, and I should be unable to sustain the shock.

But,

But, Thou knowest my frame, and rememberest that I am but dust.

October 4. My son Henry is returned from the country, restored to health, and my sweet William is gone to take his place. Glad should I have been to have suckled him longer. But I must be silent. The Lord knows best what he has to do with me. Henry has cost me many prayers and tears. May grace make his recovery a blessing to his parents and to himself?

November 12. Be pleased, O merciful and compassionate Saviour, to hear the prayers of an unworthy creature, who joins with thousands at this time, in offering her supplications unto Thee, in behalf of our most gracious King, who is said to be dangerously ill. In the midst of judgment, O Lord, remember mercy. It is true, we are a sinful people ;
our

our transgressions are great, our crimes testify against us ; but Oh ! punish us not according to our deserts. As the hearts, so the lives of Kings are in thy hands. We humbly intreat thee to spare his life, for the good of the nation. Under his happy government we have enjoyed peace and tranquillity, and have sat under our own vines and fig-trees, none making us afraid. Continue to us these blessings, we pray thee, by prolonging his valuable life. Rebuke his disorder, and grant that he may come out of this furnace, like gold purified seven times. Sanctify the awful providence to our amiable Queen ; wipe the tears from her eyes, and restore joy to her dejected mind, by restoring her beloved husband to health ; that they may yet spend many years together in mutual felicity, and late may they be called to resign this earthly crown, and to receive a crown of life from thy hands. Amen.

December

December 7. What can I want when I possess thee, my God! Without Thee the whole creation could afford me no comfort; but in Thee my highest wishes are answered—my utmost ambition is satisfied. This day I was at the Lord's table, where, I trust, I renewed my covenant, and again gave myself up to my God and Saviour. May he accept of me and mine, as the purchase of his most precious blood. May my future life be to his praise, and Holiness to the Lord be written upon my every action. My soul was much humbled when I partook of the bread and wine. I saw myself most vile, and could offer no other prayer for myself and family, but, God be merciful to us sinners! The longer I live, the more I see of the wickedness of my heart. Ah, what would become of me, were it not for the atoning blood of Jesus, to cancel the enormous sum of my transgressions.

I

December

December 24. To thee, O Lord, I direct my prayer, and will look up with humble confidence, that thou wilt answer me. Oh ! that I may copy from my heart thy resignation in Gethsemane, and say, Not my will, but thine be done ! I am again near the hour of sorrow. With regard to myself, I commend soul and body into thy hands. Be pleased to do with me as seemeth best to thy wisdom. If it be thy will, make me again a joyful mother ; and, with submission, I have humbly intreated thee to indulge my wish by adding a daughter to our little family. But, if the child should prove a snare to me, Lord forbid that I should possess it : Oh ! let me not be the mother of a child that should not be born for thy glory ! I ask not great things for them here, but O grant that I, and all belonging to me, may attain to thy heavenly kingdom.

January

1789.

January 28. Since life is both short and uncertain, Oh that I may be circumspect and careful, how I employ my time! Happy the person who aims to order the thoughts and words of every day, as though it were to be the last day spent upon earth! May this be my aim and care! To a soul thus disposed, the valley of the shadow of death will not appear very gloomy. It will be brightened by the expectation of being soon introduced to the General Assembly and Church of the First-born, and to Jesus the Great Mediator.

March 13. Bless the Lord, O my soul! He has again delivered me in the hour of trouble, and made me the mother of a living child. I have dedicated him to the Lord, from whom I received him. The Lord saw it not fit

to grant my request for a daughter; I acquiesce in submission to his will.

But, O my Lord, my chief, my only Friend, what shall I say unto Thee concerning myself. I dare not, I do not complain. My sufferings are far short of my deserts. Be pleased, in thy mercy, to grant me that patience which my situation requires. I am, indeed, brought very low. My strength decays daily. But, blessed be my God, He is the strength of my heart, and my portion for ever! And I am confident, that if He is pleased to call me hence, it will be a happy change! I shall go from pain to ease, from sorrow to joy, from sickness to health, from death to everlasting life!

March 18. My faith is put to another trial; and alas! I feel a want of that sweet resigned spirit, which should enable
me

me to say from my heart, Thy will be done. It is the general apprehension of my friends, that I am going, if not already gone, into a deep decline. The physician intimates the same: and a cough, a pain in my side, a low fever, and night sweats, admonish me, that they judge rightly of my case. So that my sweet babe is ordered to be taken from my breast, and sent to another nurse. This is a painful stroke for a tender mother to bear. But I trust the Lord will support me under it; and influence the heart of the nurse to treat the child with tenderness.

Lord, what is man! What are we, when thou layest thine hand upon us! How soon do we wither and perish, like the flowers of the field!

The Apostle says, If in this life only we had hope, we should be of all people

the most miserable! But he says, likewise, That if our earthly house of this tabernacle be dissolved, we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. And that, When He who is our Life shall appear, we shall appear with him in glory. Our Saviour himself declares, I am the Resurrection and the Life; he that believeth in me shall never die. Shall I then be afraid to let my body return to dust? No, rather let me rejoice that I shall be released from a world of sin and sorrow, and translated to the mansions of eternal joy.

But here lies my weakness, of which the enemy takes advantage. The thoughts of parting with my husband, and leaving my dear children, without being able to cultivate their tender minds in the paths of religion and virtue. But is not My God able to take care of them, without me?

me? Yes, He is. I am myself a monument of his goodness, and why should I disturb him? Oh, He has been a good Lord to me, in all his characters, offices, and providences! And he has promised his people to be the same, to their seed after them! Courage, then, my soul! endure patiently his rod, and he will soon turn thy sorrow into joy, thy mourning into songs of praise.

May 16. To satisfy my husband and friends, I have been awhile in the country, but have found little benefit either from air or exercise. I had the advice of a physician there, who agrees with the rest, that my disorder is a consumption, and that, without the greatest care, my life is in danger. Be it so. I shall appear in glory, with Christ, who is my life. I only wish my affections were more weaned from my husband and children. But when I see one who is

so dear to me, tenderly sympathising over me, weeping tears of love, and afraid to express his apprehension that our union must soon be dissolved—This is too much for mere flesh and blood. Nothing but Grace can enable me to stand upon this ground. Break off, O Lord, this darling fetter from my heart, and my heaven is already begun !

May 19. As many of my friends wish me to have the advice of Dr. M — —, I have this day applied to him. He apprehends that I have not been rightly treated, and that I may yet recover. As he thinks my disorder is not a consumption, but a great inward weakness, owing to my having suckled my child too long, I have put myself under his care. I hope I can adopt the language of Dr. Young,

Come life, or death, is equal ; neither weighs,
All weight in this—Oh ! let me live to thee !

May 26.

May 26. One affliction seldom comes alone. My eldest child is so exceedingly ill, that I fear his life is in danger. But if the Lord should be pleased to take him, I feel myself perfectly resigned to his Will. There is little prospect of my living to see him brought up,—and it will be a matter of joy, to think that his course is so soon finished, and that he has gained the prize of victory, without entering upon the field of battle.

June 13. I am still under the care of a physician, but he gives me no hope. Indeed, it would be both cruel, and in vain, to flatter me now, for my own weakness informs me, that I am going apace. I bless my God, I can now say, Thy will be done! I can give up my dear husband and children, with every earthly connection, into his hands. He will take care of them. My husband's trial

trial is great. I feel more for him than for myself. But Heaven will make amends for all! Oh, how I pant and thirst for the happy hour, when my Father will send his Angels to convey my spirit to rest!

There remaineth a rest for the people of God. I know that my Redeemer liveth. O Death, where is thy sting! Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of Righteousness! When I walk through the valley, I will fear no evil; thy rod, and thy staff comfort me. Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord!

I bless God, I have not one fear concerning dying. That Almighty Lord, who has so wonderfully preserved me to the present moment, will not forsake me in my last extremity. No, when flesh
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and heart fail, He will be the strength of
my heart, and my portion for ever!

And will Jehovah condescend
To be my Father and my Friend?
Then let my songs with Angels join,
Heaven is secure if God is mine!

N. B. The paragraphs dated the
13th June, were found upon a detached
piece of paper, and were probably the
last she ever wrote. She obtained her
long desired release from sin and sorrow
on the 28th July, 1789, aged thirty-
seven years, within five days, being born
the 23d July, 1752, O. S.

LETTERS

L E T T E R S

Written to her Husband and Children; delivered after her decease.

TO HER HUSBAND.

No. I.

MY MOST DEARLY BELOVED,

I frequently hear of the death of one and another in child-bed, which fills my mind with apprehensions, for what am I better than they, that I should expect more favour from the Lord!

The sun of prosperity has shone upon me for five years, and I have been blessed with one of the best of husbands, which makes the thought of the parting stroke most sensibly painful to me. If it were not for the great realities of religion, I could not give up the beloved of my heart. All the powers of my soul are at
work,

work, when I think what your feelings will be in the trying hour of separation. But my dearest, grieve not as without hope; when a few more years have finished their course, I trust, through the merits of the Great Redeemer, that we shall have a happy meeting in our Heavenly Father's house. Then parting, sighs, and tears shall be no more. Then, I humbly hope, we shall be for ever united in singing the song of Moses and the Lamb.

The Almighty, who by a chain of Providences brought us together, and only lent me to you for a short space, has an undoubted right to recall me, when He pleases. Very pleasant hast thou been to me in life, and in death we shall not be divided. You will shed a tear to my memory, when you reflect on the many, yea, I may say, very many happy hours we have spent, and the
 endearing

endearing conversation we have had together. But the subject is too delicate, I must not dwell on it. Those seasons are now past. They are vanished, like the morning cloud, or early dew. Nothing now presents itself to me, but sorrow, anguish, weeping friends, the gloomy appendages of death, and an opening grave.

This is a dreary prospect; but blessed be God, here it ends. Beyond the grave, the scenes are bright and happy. My reconciled God in Christ Jesus, will receive me, place a crown of glory upon my head, and fix my abode for ever among the Sons of Light. Angels wait their commission to conduct me to the New Jerusalem above, when, with a golden harp, and a palm of victory, I shall shine a Monument of Mercy.

There I shall wait the happy period of your arrival. Let this consideration
restrain

restrain your tears—Your sincerely affectionate wife is not dead, but sleepeth. You may commit my body to the ground, *in sure and certain hope* of a joyful resurrection. When you are performing the last kind offices of affection, I shall be rejoicing before the throne of God, drinking of the rivers of pleasure that are at his right hand.

If I should leave a helpless infant, you will take care of it, and let it be brought up, with the rest, in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. I am not solicitous to have my children great, but it is my earnest wish and prayer that they may be good. My Beloved, Press forward, a glorious prize awaits you. Be faithful unto death, and you shall obtain it. If you see me in my coffin, rejoice over me, and say, What was mortal the worms shall destroy; but her soul, arrayed in the robe of the Redeemer's

deemer's righteousness, lives, to die no more. Death is swallowed up in victory. We fall, we rise, we reign !

May the God of my youth, the protector of my advancing years, and the support of my now declining days, keep you under the shadow of his Almighty wings ! May he be your guard and guide through life, your comfort in the hour of dissolution, and your portion and happiness throughout the ages of eternity.

Your affectionate Wife,

in life and death,

M. M. A.

No. II.

No. II.

MY MOST DEARLY BELOVED,

WHEN you are reading these lines, there will be nothing left of me, but a cold lump of clay. I bless God for having heard and answered my prayer; for, you know, I have often expressed a desire that my immortal spirit might take its flight before yours. Long may you live, for the sake of your dear family, to bring them up in the fear of the Lord! Let me intreat you not to sorrow as one without hope, for be assured that I am happy. I know that the enormous account of my sins is blotted out by the precious blood of my crucified Redeemer, who came into the world, to call, not the righteous, but such sinners as I am, to repentance; and he has declared, that where He is, his people shall also be. So that I am

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only

only transplanted from the Church Militant, into the Church Triumphant, to join with that General Assembly in praising the riches of redeeming grace and dying love.

I hope you have no doubt of the sincerity of my affection to you. Heaven is my witness, that your temporal and spiritual welfare has been the subject of my incessant prayers; and, I trust, they will be answering when I am sleeping in the dust. If the disembodied spirits may be favoured with the knowledge of things done below, and still interested in the concernments of their dear relatives, as I have some reason to think they will—How gladly shall I accept the pleasing employ, of attending you as an invisible guardian angel, to warn you of dangers, and lend you aid in every season of distress. My first care should be to wipe the tears from your beloved
cheek,

cheek, to soothe the wound my removal has made, and to help you to triumph over your loss, with the fortitude and resignation becoming you as a child of God.

Time is short. In a few revolving years, at most, your silver cord of life will be loosed, and your golden bowl broken; then, when every earthly comfort shall fade, you will know the worth of redemption by the sufferings, and death, of the Son of God. Oh, that when flesh and heart shall fail, you may find Him your strength and portion! If so, what a joyful meeting shall we have to part no more, in his presence, where there is fulness of joy, and where all tears shall be wiped away!

I thank you for all the kindness you have shewn to me, a most unworthy creature. You have, indeed, been a

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tender

tender and affectionate husband to me. In you I have found a bosom friend, and my cares have been reposed in your beloved breast. My earthly happiness has been too great. I acquiesce. He who gave me life has a right to take it. I go to permanent happiness without alloy, where sorrow can find no entrance.

And now, with all the solemn appendages of death in my view—the gloomy grave and an eternal world, into which I am about to enter, I lift up my hands in supplication for you. May the blessings of the Eternal Jehovah rest upon you! May his presence by your light and your strength, to direct and support you through all the changes of this mortal life. And when you are bidding adieu to all in this world, may his Almighty arm be your defence, and may his Heavenly Messengers convey your departing spirit

spirit to the unfulfilled regions of eternal
peace ! Adieu, till we meet to part no
more. The Lord blefs you !

Your affectionate Wife,

M. M. A.

No. III.

*To her Husband's two Children, by a
former Wife.*

MY DEAR FREDERIC AND CHARLES,

THE ties of relation between us are broken, and you will see her no more, who has very imperfectly fulfilled to you the duty of a mother-in-law. However, I would hope that some of the instructions you have received from me, will make an abiding impression upon your minds.

I now address you in the sacred language of scripture, "Remember thy Creator in the days of thy youth." It is recorded, to the honour of King Josiah, that he sought his God while he was yet young. Samuel, likewise, was called early to acknowledge the God of his fathers. These instances are left upon record, for our instruction and encouragement, that we should go and do like-

likewise. And God has said, They that seek me early shall find me. By seeking the Lord in early life, you will escape many temptations that you will otherwise be exposed to. Do you ask me, how you are to seek him? Read the bible with attention, and pray over it. The path you are to walk in will then appear more and more plain.

Believe in that Almighty Being, who created the world and all things in it; who gave you your birth, and has preserved you to the present moment; and who will, if you confide in him, not only support and guide you through life, but will be your strength and portion in the hour of dissolution, when flesh and heart shall fail.

Believe in his Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, who condescended to take our nature upon him, and to die for our sins,

that we might die unto sin, and live to the praise and glory of his Holy Name. He who is the Truth has declared, that Whosoever liveth and believeth in Him, shall be saved, shall live for ever.

Believe in the Holy Spirit, who will enlighten your understanding, instruct you in the ways of true religion, and enable you, by a life and conversation agreeable to your profession, to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. But if any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his. It is the religion of the gospel alone, my dear children, that can regulate your affections, refine your tempers, and make you appear amiable in the sight of men. For then they must admire your conduct, even if they disapprove of your singularity. For a christian must be singular, because his walk is not with Man, but with God. Let me therefore in-

treat you to be faithful to God, even unto death, and he will give you a crown of life.

And now, my dear Frederic, I request you to behave with dutiful respect to your honoured father. He has been a good father to you. Endeavour to alleviate his present affliction, by the utmost attention to his person and business. And if you see him wear the aspect of sorrow, desire him not to grieve for me, but rather to rejoice that I am delivered from the miseries of mortality, and have my fixed abode with the saints in light.

And now, my dear children, I bid you, for a time, farewell. That God may be your guide and protector in youth, and to the end of life, is the dying prayer of

Your affectionate Mother,

M. M. A.

To

No. IV.

To her own three Children.

MY DEARLY BELOVED ANDREW HENRY,
WILLIAM, AND GEORGE,

WHEN you are capable of reading these lines, the hand that wrote them will be mouldered into dust. If God had prolonged my life, it would have been my delight to have instructed you in his fear, and to have cultivated in your infant hearts, reverence and gratitude to your Creator.

But the Almighty, who cannot err, for wise ends has appointed a separation. He is about to take me from this vale of sin and misery, to celebrate his praise, and to admire his glorious perfections, in his heavenly kingdom. I cannot leave the world without bequeathing to my beloved children a few instructions, my
dying

dying advice. Which, so far as agreeable to the word of God, I humbly beseech him to give them grace to value.

You have a father, who, I am sure, loves you, and if it please God to spare his life, will do his utmost to have you brought up in the christian religion,—a blessing for which you can never be sufficiently thankful. I intreat you, yea, I charge you, as you shall answer it at the dreadful day of judgment, that you love and serve your God in sincerity and truth ; otherwise, she who brought you into the world with sorrow, will, at last, rejoice in your just condemnation.

I admonish you to love the bible ; to read it with attention, and pray to God to enlighten your understanding, that you may know and approve the glorious truths which that blessed book contains. To reading, add meditation. Do not
read

read it as a history, in which you are no way concerned. But remember, it is the word of Him, who is not a man like yourself. It contains the sacred oracles of truth. It is the word of a God who is perfect and holy in all his ways. It is the book by which your heart and actions will be tried. Try yourself by it repeatedly, and endeavour to make yourself well acquainted with its contents. It is recorded, to the honour of that eminent christian youth, King Edward the Sixth, that if, at any time, he let the bible fall, he would take it up with reverence and concern, as having treated the word of his Creator with disrespect.

But, my dear children, to reading and meditation, you must add fervent prayer. Consider yourselves, as you really are, sinners, by nature and practice. In sin you were conceived and brought forth.

By

By the disobedience of one man, sin entered the world, and death by sin, as you may read in the third chapter of Genesis. But by the obedience of One, many are made righteous. This One, who took compassion on Adam's lost race, is no other than the Son of God, who dwelt, from eternity, in the bosom of his Father. This Prince of peace was the sinner's only friend, who gave his life a sacrifice for sin. He gave his life a sacrifice for you, my dear children, if you do but believe in him. Oh, reject him not, but give up yourselves a willing sacrifice to his service. You will find his ways to be ways of pleasantness, and all his paths, peace. A peace which the world knows nothing of; which it can neither give nor take away.

I intreat you to honour and obey your dear father. Honour your father and mother, is the first commandment, with promise.

promise. And the Apostle says, Children, obey your parents in all things. I do not mean only, that you are to obey his commands; you ought, likewise, always to reverence his person and character, and make his interest the object of your attention. Should you be intrusted with the concerns of his business, punctually fulfil the trust reposed in you, with diligence, alacrity, and delight. Ingratiate yourself into his favour by the most endearing and observant behaviour, and always, whether in his presence or absence, behave towards him with that respect which his due.

If he should again enter into the marriage state, I lay it as an injunction upon you, that you treat your mother-in-law with dutiful respect. Try to win her affections; and if you gain them, make it your study to secure them.

Love

Love your brothers. You are the youngest in the family, therefore it is your place to submit to them. Let not envy or malice reign in your hearts; but endeavour to live in peace and harmony with each other. Thus, shall you be blessed of the Lord, and be made a comfort to the family to which you are united.

Again, I intreat you to be lowly in heart and life. Pride banished angels from happiness in heaven, to the lowest depths of misery in hell. The scripture declares, That whoever exalteth himself shall be abased, but whoever humbleth himself shall be exalted. A proud person is an ignorant one. Seek therefore of the Lord the true knowledge of yourself, and then be proud if you can. Imitate the character of our Lord and Master, and you will be a pattern of humility. Despise not the poor, but
 I administer

administer to their necessities as far as you are able. Save your pocket money, and dedicate it to the Lord's poor; and He will abundantly repay you. A cup of cold water, given in the name of a disciple, shall not lose its reward.

Love retirement, and be more fond of being alone, than of letting your tongue run in company. Thus you will improve your mind, and be qualified to act, either in public, or in private life.

Love your enemies, if you should have any. Be not bitter against them; if you cannot turn their hearts, pray for them. In this way you will heap coals of fire upon their heads, and constrain them to admire your conduct.

Follow not the vanities of the present age. I charge you not to love the card-table, nor to frequent play-houses, balls, assem-

asssemblies, or any of those scenes of dissipation, by which, as by so many baits, Satan takes advantage to entangle deluded mortals. These amusements will afford you no comfort in a dying hour. Resist the devil, therefore, and he will flee from you. Wear the sword of the Spirit, the word of God, in your own defence, and keep it bright by repeated use; and then you need not fear, either the displeasure of men, or the rage of devils; for who is he that can harm you, if you are followers of that which is good?

Be not ashamed of the cross of Christ; it is the christian's glory; it is the power of God unto salvation. But whoever will live godly in Christ Jesus, must suffer affliction. Love the people of God, and cultivate an acquaintance with them. They are the excellent of the earth, and it is for their sakes that the

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world

world is upheld. But, my dear children, you must not consider all those as the people of Christ, who make profession of his name. He had but twelve Apostles, and one of them was a devil. Many call him, Lord, to promote there own ends, to whom, in the Great-day, He will say, Depart from me, I never knew you. Be not content with the *shell*, but seek for the *kernel* of true christianity. Let redeeming love be the principle object of your study. Search for those treasures of wisdom and knowledge, which the Angels desire to look into. This happy knowledge will qualify you, if not for offices and dignities upon earth, for a most honourable advancement in heaven. Contemplate the perfections of the Son of God. An habitual remembrance of his agonies and dying love, will be as a golden altar, from whence you may take a coal, to enkindle the sacred flame of love in your own breast.

Love

Love the house and public worship of God. That you may say, with David, My soul longeth, yea, even panteth for the courts of the Lord; I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, then to dwell in the tents of the wicked. Go not with unhallowed lips into the sanctuary, but let your heart and voice join in singing the Saviour's praise. Keep the Lord's-day holy; let no work be done by you in it, but what is absolutely necessary, and such as you will be able to answer for, at the Great-day. I mean, especially, when you shall be your own masters. Devote the Lord's-day to religious exercises, to public worship, private reflection, reading, and to earnest prayer for yourself, your family and friends, the nation to which you belong, and the world at large. Pray for that happy time, when the kingdoms of the world shall become the kingdoms of the Lord, and of his

Christ. Be not fond of visiting on this holy day, but rather of retirement. Every Lord's-day thus sanctified, will promote your advantage and comfort in time, and your meetness for the Eternal Sabbath.

I have one thing more to add. I was always fond of writing, from a child. And when the Lord, in mercy, was pleased to awaken me from the carelessness of my natural state, and to shew me that nothing short of Himself could make me happy; a dear minister, to whom I have been indebted for many spiritual benefits, advised me to set down remarks on the state of my mind, from time to time. I have followed his advice, and it has been attended with a great blessing to me. Yea, in this sweet employment I have spent many a pleasant hour, when thousands were sleeping in their beds.

The

The manuscripts I have by me, and I leave them as a present to my beloved children. Read them with attention. They contain nothing but simplicity, and (I trust) truth. They are not adorned with elegant language. That was not my aim, as they were written for my own use, and chiefly, when I was under the afflicting hand of my Merciful Heavenly Father, whose ways are in the deep waters, but who, in the end, doth all things well.

I would wish you, my children, in this particular, to follow my example. Be not fearful of undertaking it. I began, in much timidity, but the Lord strengthened me. So he will you, if you confide in him, and if your motive is disinterested. I have often thought of correcting the whole, but have not had time, otherwise you would have seen it in a better garb. You will find likewise, some thoughts and reflections,

which I began, but which also, for want of time, I have left unfinished. These I likewise recommend to your perusal, and wish you to compleat them. And I pray the Lord to afford his blessing.

And now, my dear and much loved children, nothing remains but to bid you a last farewell.

May the blessing of the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, rest upon you! May he pour plentifully into your hearts the riches of his grace, that you may grow up as the cedars of Lebanon! May you be trees of righteousness, of the Lord's own planting! May you be adorned with every grace of the Holy Spirit, that all around you may see that you belong to Jesus! May your will be sweetly sunk in the will of God! May you be sincere penitents, true converts, and sound believers!

believers! May you be dead to the world and all things in it, and your life hidden with Christ in God.

At length may you finish your course with joy. When dying pangs come upon you, when death's cold sweat bedews your face, and the soul sits, as it were, upon the quivering lips, ready to take its everlasting flight! May you then, rejoicing in the Redeemer's complete atonement, and triumphing over death and his sting, be conducted by Angels to the bright realms of Eternal day. There I trust to meet you, and the rest of our dear family, and unite with you in admiring and praising the adorable perfections of our God and Saviour. Till that blessed period, adieu.

Your affectionate Mother,

M. M. A.

No. V.

A Letter to a Friend on her Marriage.

June 28, 1784.

MY VERY DEAR FRIEND,

GIVE me leave to congratulate you, and believe me, that I sincerely wish you all the happiness that this world can afford in a married state. A state which has received the benediction of the Almighty, and was instituted by him in Paradise.

Like me, my dear friend, you had been long drinking the bitter waters of affliction; but now, like ships driven about for a time upon the tempestuous ocean, we have escaped the wreck of the seas, and, to all human appearance, are safely arrived in a peaceful haven. Let us bless God for his distinguishing mercy to us, and for verifying his promise, to be a Father to the fatherless.

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We are, I trust, both united to men who aim to adorn the doctrine of God our saviour. Too many who have the form, are destitute of the power of godliness. Let *us* not rest, till we experience the reality of the influence of the gospel on our whole deportment; in subduing our sinful passions, and refining our tempers. Thus shall our conduct appear amiable in the sight of men, and meet with the approbation of the God whom we serve. I cannot help offering you a few words of advice, which, God is my witness, I desire to follow myself.

1. By the most affable, affectionate behaviour, endeavour to secure the esteem, the friendship, and the love of your husband. If you get these three links fast, nothing but death can dissolve your union. That affection is sure to be lasting, which is founded upon esteem
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and real friendship, and a desire to promote each others good.

2. Try to find out, as soon as possible, the disposition of your beloved; and when this great point is obtained, make it your whole study to suit your own temper to his. A man in business may meet with many rubs and crosses that we are unacquainted with. It is our place to soothe his mind under his disappointments. And if a cloud is seated upon his brow, instead of upbraiding, or making tart reflections, we should endeavour to dissipate the cloud, by the most engaging and endearing behaviour; and, at a proper time, when calm reason has regained possession of his mind, we may attempt a mild and gentle exhortation. This will sink deep, and give our admonitions, importance. It will make us appear valuable in the eyes of our husbands,

husbands, and they will be induced to shew us that respect, which, in this day, but few men pay to their wives.

3. Prefer the company of your husband, to that of your dearest friends. Have no private separate interest in view. Be frank and open hearted, and let nothing that is of real consequence be concealed from him. Whatever trust is reposed in you, be inviolably secret and faithful. Love your own habitation, and never appear better pleased than when at home, and engaged in the domestic affairs of your family. Do all in your power to make your husband love home likewise, and prefer your company to any other. Thus shall you, hand in hand, travel over the rugged paths of life, in peace. The world will look to you, as to an example worthy of imitation. You will answer the end of
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your creation; and the Lord God himself will behold you with complacence, and give his blessing to all your undertakings.

4. Be zealously careful of your husband's reputation. Suffer him not to be spoken of slightly in your presence. If his conduct should in any instance be blameable, it is your part to cast a mantle of love over it, and to bury his faults in silence and oblivion. By exposing him, you would expose yourself.

5. The last thing I would mention, and which, for its great importance, I reserve to the last, is prayer. Never give sleep to your eyes, till you have committed yourself, and your husband, to the care of the Great Shepherd and Guardian of his people. At the throne of Grace, erected for unworthy sinners,

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make your requests unto Him, who has promised to hear and answer prayer. Intreat for a blessing upon his person, family, and all his connections. The Lord has promised to bless us with all suitable temporal blessings, if we ask in faith. And He is not, like man, unmindful of his word. Heaven and earth may, and shall pass away, but the word of God abideth for ever.

I must yet add one thing more. Now you are placed at the head of a family, let your behaviour to your servants be gentle and kind, that they may both love and respect you. And remember that you have also a Master in Heaven, with whom there is no respect of persons.

I have many more thoughts upon my mind, which at present I cannot set down. So far as the hints I have offered are agreeable

agreeable to the word of God, may you have grace to follow them.

I have little to say concerning your duty as a parent, till you shall be honoured with the name of a Mother; which if you should ever be, I hope you will make it your study and pleasure to bring your children up in the fear of God, that they may be a comfort to yourself, and a blessing to society; so that both they, and you, may reap the fruits of your faithful care and watchfulness over them. Dedicate them, like Samuel, from their birth, to the service of God, and He will take care of them as they grow up. Many parents make great rejoicings at the birth of a child, but, alas! how few wrestle, like Hannah, with God, in their behalf! Many are solicitous to heap up large fortunes for their children; but let it be our ambition and aim, 'by the abundance of
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our prayers, to secure to them a large inheritance above the skies. May the Lord give his blessing to you, and to what I have written. Adieu.

Yours, &c.

M. M. A.

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No. VI.

To another dear Friend.

April 29, 1784.

MY BELOVED FRIEND,

I hope, by this time, your eyes are quite recovered, and your health re-established. May all your powers and faculties of body and mind, be unreservedly devoted to him, who devoted his life, a sacrifice upon the Cross, to save your precious soul from falling into that pit, from whence there is no redemption!

What obligations are we under to serve God in sincerity! Many pretend to it, by a splendid outward profession, who yet are strangers to the great design of the christian religion! Let us, my beloved friend, from a principle of love, feel ourselves constrained to adorn the doctrine

doctrine of God our Saviour; that our very enemies may be forced to confess, that we are Christians indeed. And if we are Christians, we may look down, with a holy disdain, upon all that the world accounts great.

The grandeur of a court, or a crown, with all the pompous attendants of earthly majesty, are baubles, compared with the real dignity of a child of God. Here indeed, we may be treated as mean and contemptible, but our inheritance is yonder, above the moon and stars. Do we want Royal robes? behold, the Garment of a Redeemer's righteousness is provided. Arrayed in this, we shall be justified, accepted, and honoured, in the presence of a Holy God. Are crowns and sceptres desirable? In the mansions of Eternal Glory, we shall reign as Kings and Priests, and be crowned with light and immortality. The highest earthly

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titles could not preserve us from death ; but our union with the Lord Jesus Christ secures to us a never-ending life, and all the happiness our utmost capacities can receive. Does not your heart say, with mine, Hasten the time, dear Lord, when I shall cease to sin, and be with thee for ever ?

Next Sunday, being the first in the month, I doubt not but we shall be present in spirit at the table of our Lord. Oh, how condescending is He, thus to favour sinful dust and ashes ! To give them, by faith, experimentally, to eat his broken body, and to drink his precious blood, which was shed for us ! May we again renew our covenant with this Friend of Sinners, to forsake all our sins, and to lead a holy life. Thus we shall have consolation in a dying hour, and joy beyond the grave, at the marriage-supper of the Lamb ! May you, and I, and

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all belonging to us, appear at that solemnity, having on the wedding-garment. Adieu.

Ever yours,

M. M. A.

No. VII.

To the same.

March 30, 1789.

MY DEAR FRIEND,

RECEIVE this letter as written by one restored from the very brink of the grave. Long before this, I expected to have taken my seat among the happy company that surround the throne.

On January 30, I was safely delivered of a fine boy, and for five days afterwards I was as well as could be expected in my situation. On the fifth evening I was taken with cold shivering fits; from that time my strength abated apace, and all the symptoms of a decline appeared. A cough, shortness of breath, a fever, and cold sweats at night, with a pain in my side, all admonished me—to prepare

pare—to arise and depart, for this was not my rest. My friends were all kind, and warned me of my danger, but not before I knew it myself. My greatest struggle was to give up my husband, and a fear lest my dear babes should be treated ill, when deprived of their affectionate mother. This shewed my weakness, but, Blessed be God, he knows my frame, and remembers that I am but dust. When I pleaded for them at the throne of Grace, He heard my prayer, and enabled me to believe, that He will be a God to me, and to my seed after me. This satisfied me, and I was made willing to give up all. Then I could look death in the face, with confidence.

O, my friend, can the world, or any thing in it, afford such comfort as this? No. Vanity of vanities, It is all vanity.

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The worth of Christ as a Saviour, is, indeed, known upon a sick-bed. When pain possesses every nerve, and paleness changes the fallen visage, then to be able to say, I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that when He shall appear, I shall appear with him in Glory—What a consolation! O my beloved, What a treasure has the believer in Jesus? Promise upon promise! and all sealed by the truth and faithfulness of God!

Who would not give up the poor pleasures of the world, for the realities of religion? How much happiness do they lose, who will not believe that the Christian enjoys a peace which the world is unacquainted with? It is true, the people of God are an afflicted people; but if we suffer, we shall also reign with him. We must be made perfect through sufferings.

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There is a need be for all our afflictions, to try our graces, to humble our pride, to subdue our tempers, and to implant the mind and disposition of the Son of God within us. Pray, that my bodily affliction may be sanctified to these desirable ends. . There is much reformation still wanting in me. I am a stubborn child, therefore My Father chastens me, that I may not go astray from him. But I know that every stroke is from love. And I hope he will endue me with patience to bear my sufferings, which are much less than my deserts.

I hope you have boldly health, and that your mind is calm and peaceful, under the sweet impressions of Emanuel's love—that love which passeth understanding. I know not whether we are to meet again upon earth, but, if not,
I trust

I trust we shall meet in heaven, and spend a happy eternity together. Farewell.

Your unchangeable Friend,

M. M. A.

P. S. I am not yet thought to be out of danger, but if I am to live, I hope the Lord will restore my health. I doubt not but your joy is as great as ours, for the restoration of our gracious King to health. What a great blessing to this nation! May it be long continued!

F I N I S.

